SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025 SERVING NILES, BUCHANAN AND EDWARDSBURG

Niles Daily Star

leaderpub.com • $1.00 Established 1886

Stay Safe

Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts - if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
919 Port Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7141 Ext. 7221
www.bcsheriff.org

Sheriff, Chuck Heit

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE • CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

Buchanan seniors awarded nearly $2 million in scholarships

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — Buchanan High School proudly hosted its annual Honors Convocation on Sunday afternoon, celebrating the academic achievements of the Class of 2025.

The school recognized the hard work and determination of its graduating seniors – highlighted by the awarding of more than $2 million in scholarships and military incentives.

Out of 107 graduates, 43 received Honor or High Honor designations, exemplifying a steadfast commitment to academic excellence.

A highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of the Top 10 students in the graduating class, who have consistently demonstrated outstanding academic performance throughout their high school careers:

1. Cameron Carlson
2. Alaina Hickok
3. Emma Miller
4. Kaitlin Ferrell
5. Caitlyn Horvath
6. Sarah Brackett
7. Ava Graham
8. Olivia Kutemeier
9. Evyn Pruett
10. Brooke Strefling

In addition, Buchanan High School was proud to honor this year's Salutatorians and Valedictorians, who have achieved the highest levels of academic distinction:

Salutatorians:
- Kaitlin Ferrell
- Caitlyn Horvath

Valedictorians:
- Alaina Hickok
- Emma Miller
- Cameron Carlson

"The Class of 2025 has demonstrated remarkable perseverance and dedication," said Principal Brian Pruett. "Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and the support of our dedicated faculty and staff."

The Buchanan High School community and district administration extended its congratulations to the Class of 2025 and wished each graduate continued success as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

Niles seniors earn scholarships, awards

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Niles High School seniors filled the Fine Arts Center Tuesday morning to be recognized for their academic ventures with awards and scholarships during the school's annual Scholarship Program.

In total, Niles seniors were awarded more than $161,000 in local scholarship funds.

The awards and scholarships were presented to the following students:

- **First Student To Turn In A Complete Application:** Kylie Conn
- **AJ Smith Memorial Scholarship:** Ellias Babler, Zach Hines, Andrew Roberts
- **Andrew Wuthnow NHS Track Scholarship:** Aydan McCarey
- **Barbara Ann Stone Scholarship:** Rowan Iwaniuk, Alaina Bowman, Natalie Wilds
- **Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship:** Kayla Kiggins, Addison Gowan, Ayrial Vail
- **Blaske Hill Foundation Scholarship:** Angelica Mazumder
- **Brian Parker Memorial Foundation:** Addison Gowen
- **Class of 1974 Scholarship:** Alandra Gonzales, Kendall Gerdes
- **Marion and Dan Crossman Scholarship:** Alyssa Hamrick
- **The Dan Holland Memorial Scholarship:** Joshua McIntyre
- **The Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Scholarship of the Rebecca Dewey Chapter:** Alexa Garcia
- **The Darek Bullock Mills Memorial Scholarship:** Aydan McCarey
- **David and Carol Thackray Scholarship:** Alaina Bowman, Lillian Landon
- **First Presbyterian Church Scholarship:** Irie Dempsey
- **FFA Alumni & Friends Scholarship:** Rowan Iwaniuk
- **Irving Frost Legacy Scholarship:** Rowan Iwaniuk
- **The Roots of Education Scholarship:** Kaydence Jacobs, Rowan Iwaniuk
- **Frederick S. Upton Opportunity Scholarship:** Zachary Hines
- **George & Margaret Contois:** Kylie Conn
- **Jason Arnold Memorial Scholarship:** Emma Williams, Jeanne Griffin, Angelica Mazumder
- **The Jim Payne Hanky Panky Scholarship:** Zane Bolyard
- **Kick the Can Toward Education Niles Community Schools Custodial Staff Scholarship:** Myles Jones
- **Michele Clement Memorial Scholarship:** Cameron Woodbury
- **Dr. James and Leila Munro Scholarship:** Peyton Burger
- **Miss/Mr. Niles Scholarship:** Kylie Conn, Natalie Wilds, Emma Williams, Paxton Daniel, Rowan Iwaniuk
- **Niles District Education Association:** Rowan Iwaniuk, Leah Martin
- **Neil Moss Elks Annual Drug Awareness Golf Scholarships:** Joslynn Maples, Rowan Iwaniuk, Emma Williams
- **New Futures Scholarship:** Anjelica Mazumder

See AWARDS, Page A8

STARS ON THE STAGE

Cassopolis, Edwardsburg theater programs earn WAVE Performing Arts Awards

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BENTON HARBOR — Two local high schools took home hardware in the fourth annual WAVE Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre at the Mendel Center Mainstage on the Benton Harbor Campus, 2755 E. Napier Ave. Wednesday, May 21.

Edwardsburg took home four WAVE Awards for its "Newsies!" performance in the following categories: Outstanding Musical Production, Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical (Brady

See STAGE, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Edwardsburg's theater program took home four WAVE Awards for its "Newsies!" performance.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Local DAR chapter dedicates trees to honor veterans

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASS COUNTY — On Saturday, May 17, members of the Captain Samuel Felt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met at Cass County Veterans Memorial Park near M-62 to celebrate the chapter's history and remember the Cass County Veterans on Armed Forces Day.

They dedicated three new trees and placed a wreath in memory of those who have died in service. The Captain Samuel Felt Chapter was joined by DAR of Michigan State Regent Dawn Brady and members of DAR along with representatives of the Cass County Parks Dept. and Cass County Conservation District.

In the past year, the Captain Samuel Felt Chapter has worked with

See TREES, Page A8

OBITUARIES

Norman Arnold
Gene Raderstorf
Susan Claire Wills
Lorraine Drew
Marlene Mast
Jennifer Myers
Randy Case
Bruce Faye Sayer
Judy O'Brien
Brady F. Chaffee
Mary Jane Wood Zabinski
A7

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Is it too early to say "Go Lions?" A2

Dowagiac adaptive track athlete celebrates new experiences, two regional titles B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Biden allowed 6,000,000 illegal individuals into the U.S. during his four years as President according to the Center for Immigration Studies. Say what you want about Trump, but Biden was asleep at the wheel.

Putin can't be trusted. How many times must he prove this to the world?

Does the next President get to use the new jet?

Let's stop being filled with political hate. Don't let these politicians ruin your first cup of coffee and your day.

I can't understand how one can complain about gas prices while standing in line to buy cigarettes.

A tattoo alone should not be a life sentence to prison in El Salvador, especially for an 18 year old kid. This isn't who we were meant to be.

After 50 years, Earth still communicates and provides instructions to Voyager I & II. We can do anything if we just put our minds to it.

Is it too early to say "Go Lions?"

Best source for mulch without bugs?

Safe travels during this Memorial Day weekend. Lots of speedy drivers out there.

So much for MAGA, I'd settle for Make America Decent Again.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	30% Chance Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
62° 42°	65° 45°	66° 49°	62° 49°	68° 51°	73° 54°

ZOLMAN TIRE HOSTS ANNUAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

MISHAWAKA, Ind. — Zolman's Best One Tire & Auto Care honored this year's 2025 Zolman's Student Leadership Award winners at their Zolman's location on 2014 E. McKinley in Mishawaka on Thursday evening, May 8th. Last night, Zolman's Best-One Tire & Auto Care had the incredible honor of awarding ten outstanding high school seniors with the Zolman Tire Student Leadership Award, each receiving a $1,000 scholarship, totaling $10,000 in scholarship funds. The event, held at our East McKinley store, recognized students who exemplify resilience, academic excellence, and a heart for service.

The evening was filled with conversations, proud families, and plenty of reasons to celebrate. Nate Zolman, President of Zolman Tire, shared words of encouragement and recognized the impact these young leaders are already making in their communities. Swipe through for highlights, including scholarship winners, speeches, and a celebration of students who represent the best of our future.

> "At Zolman's, it is a privilege to give back to the community by recognizing these fine and deserving students. We want to support the aspirations of our high school students by doing something tangible to help them further their education. We thought that some financial assistance would help our students who have persevered through incredible obstacles. These are our future leaders in our communities, and we want to encourage them to never give up on their dreams because hard work always pays off."
>
> — Nate Zolman, owner

Scholarship Winners: Guadalupe Brito, Gretchen Miller, Ella Hanley, Adam Starr, Sophia Lin, Lani Hardin, Chloie Mollitor, Adreanna Brown, Mari Escobedo, Nick Alkema

Zolman's Student Leadership Award is a $1,000 scholarship provided to ten high school seniors - totaling $10,000.00 in scholarship money. This is the sixth year of the scholarship award. Including this year, Zolman's has given $60,000 in scholarships to deserving students.

The requirements for this Student Leadership Award are as follows: 1) Each student must have at least a 3.0 GPA. 2) Each student must be a high school senior. 3) They must be planning to go into any further education beyond their senior year of high school. This continued education can be vocational schooling, trade school, community college, traditional four-year college, online college, or military. These students have been selected from qualifying students who applied from schools across the six counties of St. Joseph, Elkhart, Cass, Berrien, Van Buren and Kalamazoo.

"At Zolman's, it is a privilege to give back to the community by recognizing these fine and deserving students. We want to support the aspirations of our high school students by doing something tangible to help them

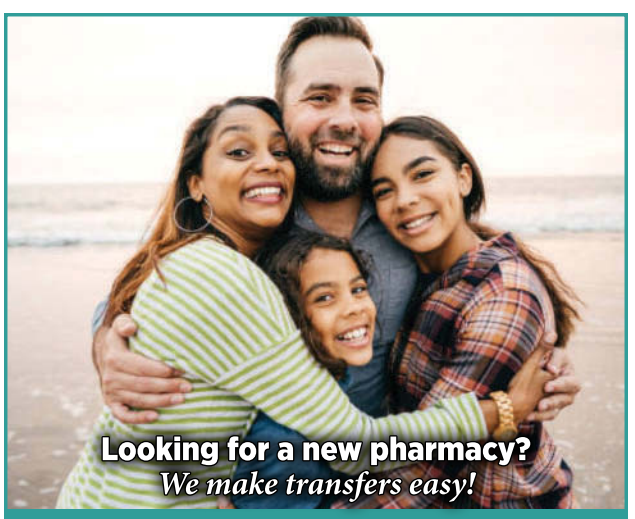
See ZOLMAN, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

THE CHIEFTAIN HEART

HELPFUL
ENGAGED
ACHIEVEMENT
RESPONSIBILITY
TEAMWORK

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS
BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
(269) 782-4400
DOWAGIACSCHOOLS.ORG



MAKE CASS FAMILY CLINIC
YOUR HEALTHCARE HOME
(269) 445-3874 Cassopolis
CASS FAMILY CLINIC
Cassopolis Niles
(269) 262-4749 Niles
Our Family, Caring For Yours.
www.cassfamilyclinic.org
Visit our website and social media for updates and more information about our services.
Cass Family Clinic is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Get Fit, Stay Fit

The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.

• Balance, Stretch & Stability • Cardio Challenge
• H.I.L.L.I.T. • S.E.A.T. • Tai Chi • Yoga

Cass County COA Enhancing Life
(800) 323-0390 | (269) 445-8110
www.CassCOA.org
facebook.com/CassCOA

Lowe Center
60525 Decatur Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Dowagiac Music in The Park lineup, vendors announced

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — One of Dowagiac's most popular events is set to take the stage once again this summer.

The Dowagiac Music in The Park summer concert series is set to return to the Dowagiac Library Event Pavilion – on the corner of New York Avenue and Main Street – at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday from June through mid August. The June 5 opening date will be a double bill, with the SMC Brass Band performing prior to a set from the Dowagiac Union High School Chamber Choir.

The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating and vendors will also be on-site and ready to serve by 6 p.m. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. and runs until approximately 8:45-9 p.m. The music genres showcased in the concert series will range from R&B to blues, classic rock, Latin jazz, reggae, country and more.

"Free and fun, the Music in The Park series is something that so many in the community look forward to every year," said Dowagiac Assistant City Manager Amanda Sleigh. "The team of volunteers that put it together works hard to ask for community feedback and incorporate into the music selections, the food vendors, and every other aspect possible. I hope to see a lot of returning faces this year, as well as people who haven't checked out the events before. They're just great."

The series includes returning favorites, like Schlitz Creek, Touch of Texas and Skeletones, as well as artists new to the series. These include acts like the Otsego Jazz Ensemble, Rock Rx, Hurricane Reggae Band, Skyler Vincek, Allie Garland and the Lunar Octet.

Returning vendors include fan favorites Nola Roux (Cajun), OAK+ASH (BBQ), Diana Kitchen (Soul food) and Wood, Stock and Grill (BBQ). New vendors include Curly Q's BBQ, KT's Rasoi, Jalapeno Grill, and King of The Kettle. The Dowagiac Fire Department Grillmasters will once again appear at the Cruise-In on July 24. The schedule will be released progressively throughout the season. For the opening night, June 5, Nola Roux, Diana's Kitchen, and King of the Kettle will be on-site.

This year's sponsors include Lyons Industries, Honor Credit Union, Southwestern Michigan College, and MonaCo Cleaning Services.

"Dowagiac Music in The Park has something for everyone — a variety of music for all ages, a rotating feast of food vendors, and an opportunity to come together with other members of the community for a free and fun evening," said Lance Lyons, President of lead sponsor Lyons Industries. "Lyons Industries is proud to once again help bring this important series back for everyone to enjoy this summer."

Those interested in updates as the series goes on are encouraged to visit the City of Dowagiac Facebook page or RSVP to the Facebook events that have been set up for each show.

2025 lineup

June 5 – SMC Brass Band and DUHS Chamber Choir | Community double bill!

June 12 – Van Dyke Review | Tribute to The Beatles

June 19 – Skyler Vincek | Today's Country Hits

June 26 – Otsego Jazz Ensemble | High-Powered Big Band

July 3 – Skeletones | R&B, Soul, Blues, and Motown

July 10 – Rock Rx | Your Prescription for Rock N' Roll

July 17 – The Lunar Octet | Spicy Latin Jazz

July 24 – Touch of Texas | Variety and Classic Country at The Cruise-In

July 31 – Allie Garland | Soul, Pop, Jazz, and Requests!

August 7 – Schlitz Creek | Bluegrass With Some Bite

August 14 – Hurricane Reggae Band | Authentic and Infectious Island Grooves

Brandywine's S4SD places second in traffic safety campaign

COMMUNITY REPORT

NILES — Brandywine Community Schools is excited to announce that the student-led group Strive 4 A Safer Drive placed second in the state for their 2024-2025 traffic safety campaign.

This year's campaign focused on Vulnerable Road Users, such as bike riders and walkers. Earlier in the school year, students connected with Safe Routes to School, a program that would provide a grant to help fund the addition of sidewalks and lighting infrastructure around each school building. Students presented the idea to the Niles Township Board at a board meeting and participated in an audit walk of the community as part of the grant process.

Sheriff's Deputy Amber McGaffigan, a Brandywine School Resource Officer, is the group's advisor.

"In efforts to gain new sidewalks and lighting in our school district to help make it safer for all vulnerable road users, the S4SD students have been the driving force behind attempting to gain the funds of a large infrastructure grant of $900,000 through Safe Routes to School/Michigan Fitness," McGaffigan said.

Students will be presented their campaign award at the Ford Driving Skills 4 Life Event on June 7 in Detroit.

"As my fourth year of being the Strive 4 A Safer Drive (S4SD) advisor for our high school students comes to an end, I can't tell you how proud I am of all the S4SD students, past and present, that have contributed to the program each year," Deputy McGaffigan added.

The group is still working on the grant process and is excited to see where it goes next.

Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) is a teen driving initiative aimed at reducing serious traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers - teens. It is presented by Ford Philanthropy and the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). All Michigan high schools are eligible to apply.

Celebrate a life

CLARK CHAPEL
405 Center St, Dowagiac
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks
Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

Vincent J. Jewelers

SELL YOUR VALUABLES

TO THE NATION'S LEADING ESTATE BUYERS

We buy gold, silver, diamonds, coins & more!

3 DAYS ONLY | MAY 27 - 29

Tuesday - Thursday | 10am - 5:30pm

118 S Front St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 | Call for directions: (269) 782-2000

WHAT WE BUY

Fine Jewelry
Diamonds
Scrap Gold & Silver
Coins & Currency
Watches
Sterling Silver
Rarities
Fine Art & Luxury Goods
& Much More

RECEIVE A 20% BONUS

When you trade for store credit*

Receive immediate payment! No appointment necessary.

Ready to Sell?
SCAN QR CODE HERE
for full buying event details.

NATIONAL RARITIES
TRUSTED ESTATE BUYERS

Call (888) 787-1112 or visit NationalRarities.com for any item-related questions.

*A free evaluation will be provided, but there is no obligation to purchase your items. Exclusions Apply.
**We are not an authorized Rolex dealer nor are we affiliated or endorsed by Rolex, Rolex USA, or any of its subsidiaries.

2025 Memorial Day Parade Schedules

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

From Buchanan to Dowagiac, there are plenty of parades to choose from on Memorial Day this year.

Here is a roundup of our area's Memorial Day parades:

Buchanan

The Buchanan Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 26 at 10 a.m.

Due to road construction, the parade will start at the Redbud City Center, 131 Oak St., and will then turn left on Front Street to Terre Coupe Street out to Oak Ridge Cemetery. Lineup begins at 9:30 a.m. and the parade starts at 10 a.m. For more information regarding the parade, call Marvin Pruett, Parade Chairman, at (269) 449-4737 or the American Legion Post 51 at (269) 695-6633.

In case of rain, services will be held at the American Legion Post 51, 403 E. Front St., Buchanan.

Niles

American Legion Post 26 will host the annual Memorial Day Parade at 11 a.m. The parade will start at N. Second St. and will travel north on Sycamore St., south on 3rd St., then east on Main St. to Oak, east on Oak to East Main, and south on East Main to Silverbrook Cemetery. Staging will begin on Second St. at approximately 8 a.m. Monday, May 26 with the event beginning at approximately 11 a.m.

Dowagiac

The Masons of Peninsular Lodge No. 10 will host a Memorial Day parade and ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 26 at City Hall. The ceremony includes a featured speaker and performances by both the high school and Kalamazoo bagpipe bands. The Memorial Day Parade then proceeds to Riverside Cemetery for Veterans' services.

Cassopolis

The Cassopolis VFW Memorial Day Parade will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, May 26 in downtown Cassopolis.

Edwardsburg

The Edwardsburg Memorial Day Parade will be hosted at 11 a.m. Monday at Edwardsburg Middle School.

Niles man gets jail, probation for drug possession

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A Niles man who didn't show up for court for five years won't get a mulligan and a free pass as he was sentenced to jail and probation Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Utz

Nicholas Adam Utz, 43, of Reum Road in Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to two years probation, five months in jail with credit for 108 days served and $1,548 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Jan. 13, 2020 during a traffic stop in Milton Township. He was found to have a suspended license and a meth pipe in his pocket.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman noted that Utz pleaded guilty back in 2020 to the meth possession charge and was released from jail due to COVID restrictions. "You chose to abscond, that's not a wise choice," the judge said.

"How is meth working out for you?" he asked Utz. "It's not good. You've been through Twin County and obviously got yourself in this situation. You're 43, you're going to be old in a hurry and have nothing to show for it if you don't change."

The judge noted that Utz has had five high severity felonies and had absconded from other courts in the years since this incident. "I can't give you credit for time served," he said. "I can't give you a mulligan, I don't think you get a freebie. You knew you wouldn't get jail if you showed up then, you knew you had a sentencing and you didn't show up."

"When you don't show up for your sentencing when you know it's coming, you don't get credit for time served," Herman said. "When you fail to appear in court, the consequences are always worse. This is not the only court you failed to appear in."

Defense attorney Greg Feldman claimed that Utz had been brought to the Cass County jail in the intervening years but was able to bond out because information about this case had not been entered into the system. He said that Utz hadn't profited from not serving a jail sentence back in 2020 and in fact has spent over a year in jail since then.

An Edwardsburg man who caused an accident that seriously injured two people was sentenced to probation.

Baker

Roger Duane Baker, 53, of Edwardsburg, pleaded guilty to moving violation causing serious impairment of bodily functions and was sentenced to nine months probation and $1,395 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred July 29, 2024 on U.S. 12 near Brady Road in Ontwa Township. According to statements made in court, Baker was speeding as he passed a pick-up truck and forced that vehicle off the road. The driver and his son were both injured and had to receive medical help.

"It's fortunate that they were wearing seatbelts or they could have been killed and you would have been going to prison," Judge Herman said. "I don't know what you were thinking. You were driving a Corvette. I'm not sure if you were hotdogging but my advice would be to get a Yugo, it won't take you on a fast track to prison."

The judge noted that the charge had been reduced to a misdemeanor since Baker had no previous record. "If there is a next time, don't expect the prosecutor to give you the benefit of the doubt," he said.

In two drunk driving cases, one woman was able to get a felony charge reduced to a misdemeanor after competing a delayed sentence probation while another will get that chance if she's successful on probation.

Hayne

Jacqueline Lynn Hayne, 68, of Union, had a third offense drunk driving offense reduced to a second offense drunk driving after completing a delayed sentence probation.

The incident had occurred Jan. 5, 2024 in Vandalia. Her blood alcohol at the time was .256, over three times the legal limit.

"You look 100 times better today than when you first appeared in court," Judge Herman told Hayne. "I'm impressed that you've done 478 hours of community service at the animal shelter."

Jeannie Louise Henion, 60, of Marcellus, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to three years probation, 30 days in jail with credit for 11 days served, completion of the Adult Treatment Court program, $2,688 in fines and costs and $290 in restitution.

Henion

The rest of her jail sentence will be suspended if she is successful on probation and the charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor second offense drunk driving.

The incident occurred Nov. 22, 2024 on M-60 near Niles when officers saw her driving the wrong way on the divided highway. Her blood alcohol level was found to be .117 which is above the legal limit.

Judge Herman noted that Henion already looks better after getting sober. He said he was concerned that this was her fourth arrest for drunk driving just in the last few years.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Ranee Conley

SMC teaching Early Childhood apprentices

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College is part of a new early childhood education apprenticeship program to combat childcare "deserts."

According to a 2024 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) survey, more than 50 percent of Michigan childcare centers faced staffing shortages in the last six months, resulting in under-enrollment, increased tuition and classroom closures.

SMC Professor of Early Childhood Education Ranee Conley sees this apprenticeship as an opportunity to equip teachers with fundamental skills and resources needed to thrive.

"Teaching young children is hard and rewarding work," said Conley, herself a veteran preschool teacher. "As state and federal education requirements increase for early childhood educators, providers struggle to keep up with community needs, to pay their teachers a living wage and to provide continuous professional development. This apprenticeship helps remove these barriers."

Registered apprenticeship programs have a long history in American skilled trades, such as construction, manufacturing and nursing, but are relatively new to early childhood education.

Michigan Works! promotes apprenticeship programs as a proven path for workers to earn better wages, build professional skills and meet business demands for skilled labor.

Joining SMC in the apprenticeship program to recruit, train and support future early childhood educators are Michigan Works! and Flowers Early Learning (formerly Tri-County Head Start). The apprenticeship is open to aspiring educators in Cass, Berrien and Van Buren counties.

"Many southwest Michigan families live in childcare deserts," said Chanda Hillman, Flowers Early Learning CEO. "Our message to potential teachers is simple: If you care about children, come grow with us! Our teachers change lives."

According to the Center for American Progress, southwest Michigan is home to dozens of childcare deserts, meaning three or more children live in a community for every available childcare slot.

"Professionalizing early childhood education, with better pay and training, will benefit the regional economy," said Mark O'Reilly, director of business services for Michigan Works! Berrien-Cass-Van Buren. "More reliable childcare options for families mean more reliable workers for southwest Michigan businesses, more economic opportunity, less poverty and healthier children. This apprenticeship is a big win for our community."

The two-year apprenticeship is open to anyone over the age of 18 with a high school diploma or equivalent. Over two years, apprentices will complete four college courses in early childhood education with paid tuition and paid release time and complete 4,000 hours of on-the-job training paired with experienced teachers.

"This training plan not only ensures that teachers understand curriculum, brain development and best practices for early childhood education," Conley said, "but also that they have the support they need to understand their own emotions, manage their stress levels and provide healthy, nurturing environments for little brains to flourish."

To learn more about the apprenticeship program or to apply for a position, visit www.flowersearlylearning.org.

Niles Daily Star

ADMINISTRATIVE
PUBLISHER
Rich Cains
(219) 455-2349
rich.cains@leaderpub.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION
Amy Glover
(269)687-7717
amy.glover@leaderpub.com

EDITORIAL
MANAGING EDITOR
Maxwell Harden
231-750-5776
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ADVERTISING
Dennis Hinsey
(269) 362-1525
dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com

DESIGN CENTER MANAGER
Allison Dale
allison.dale@leaderpub.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Joshua Turnock
Caitlin Schlemmer

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
(269) 591-6105

Published Saturday except holidays when the postal service does not deliver mail: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day at 25 N. Second St., Niles, Michigan, by Leader Publications LLC. Periodicals paid at the Niles Post Office, 741 Broadway St. Postmaster: Send change of address to Circulation Manager, The Daily Star, **25 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120**. Home Delivery by mail is local: $7.50/month, out of town: $10.50/month.

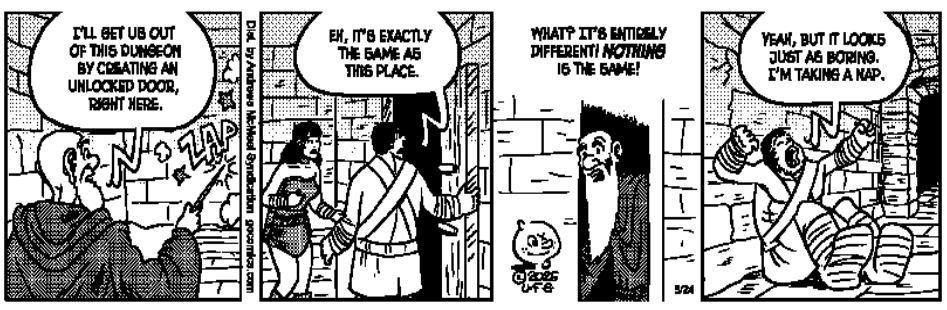
Established in 1886 • USPS 390-620 •www.leaderpub.com

COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM

I'M DOING IT! I'M WORKING ON A BOOK BASED ON ME. IT'S RAW AND HONEST.
GREAT! WHAT DO YOU HAVE SO FAR?
"HIS HANDSOMENESS WAS LIKE A CARD TRICK. IT WORKED, BUT YOU COULDN'T TELL HOW."
SO BRAVE, DAD.
HOW DO YOU SPELL "CHISELED"?

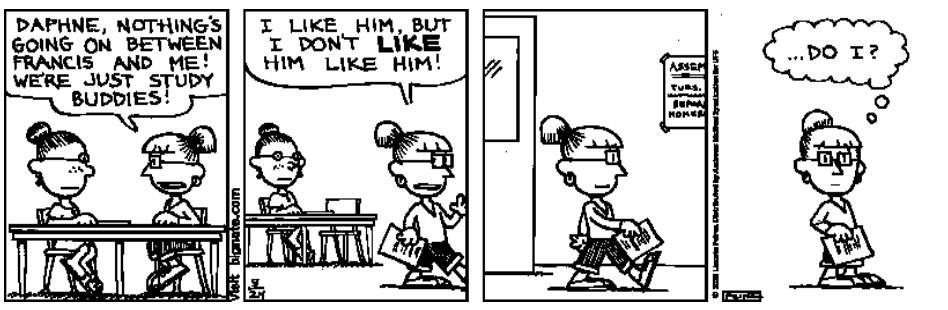
ALLEY OOP


I'LL GET US OUT OF THIS DUNGEON BY CREATING AN UNLOCKED DOOR, RIGHT HERE.
ZAP
EH, IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME AS THIS PLACE.
WHAT? IT'S ENTIRELY DIFFERENT! NOTHING IS THE SAME!
YEAH, BUT IT LOOKS JUST AS BORING. I'M TAKING A NAP.

ARLO & JANIS

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK!! ANYBODY HOME?!
COME IN, BILLY! WE'RE OVER HERE!
WE'RE TALKING THINGS OVER!
SO DID YOU INSPECT THE PLACE TOP TO BOTTOM?
WE DID!
AND?
WE LOVE IT!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO CHANGE A THING!

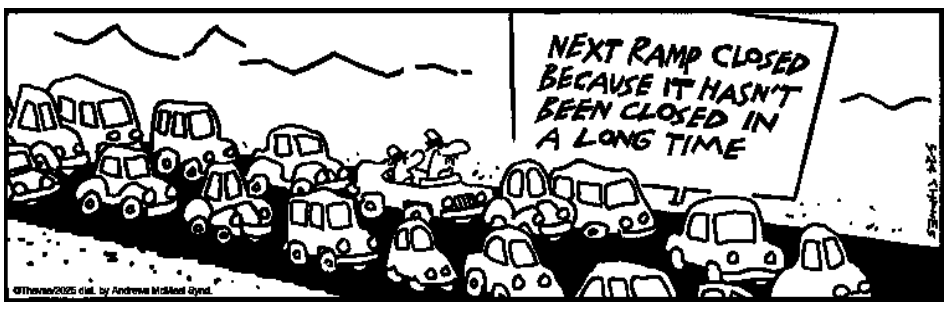
BIG NATE



BORN LOSER

I'M BACK.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH WILBERFORCE AND HATTIE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
COULDN'T YOU FIND THEM?
I DIDN'T LOOK.

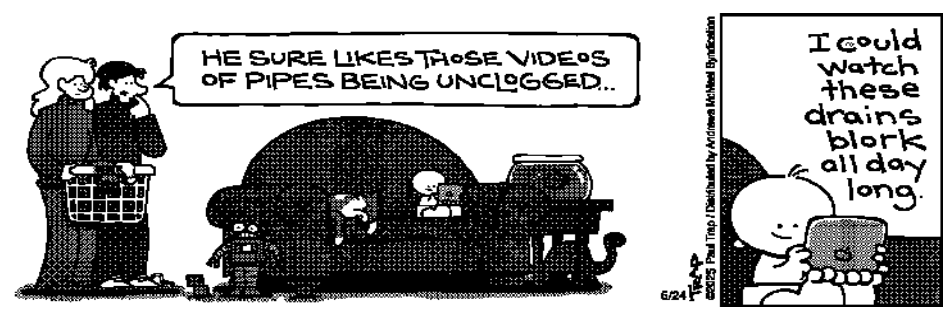
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

I FINALLY CAME UP WITH A TITLE FOR MY BOOK ON HOW TO BECOME A VENTRILOQUIST
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T ASK, BUT WHAT'S THE TITLE?
"VENTRILOQUISM FOR DUMMIES"
I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED MY INSTINCTS

THATABABY



YOUR AD HERE
CALL TODAY
Find out how to grow your business in print and online. Call (269) 683-2100.
LeaderPublications

Money doesn't grow on trees...
But you can find it in your local newspaper.
With hundreds of dollars in coupon savings every week, your local newspaper pays for itself... and then some!
Call today to subscribe! 269-687-7710
Leader Publications • www.leaderpub.com

SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

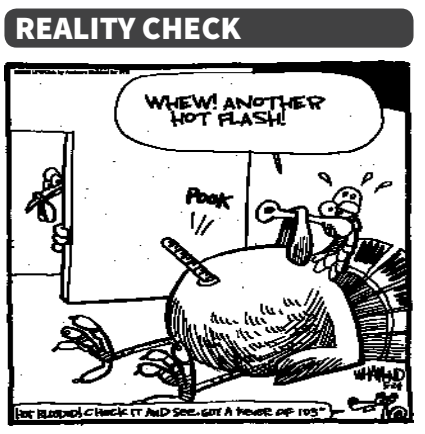
DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

		6		4	5	2		
				2			5	8
	9			3			6	
7					2			
9				6				4
			9					6
	3			1			4	
1	7			5				
		4	2	9		8		

MODERATELY CONFUSED

REALITY CHECK

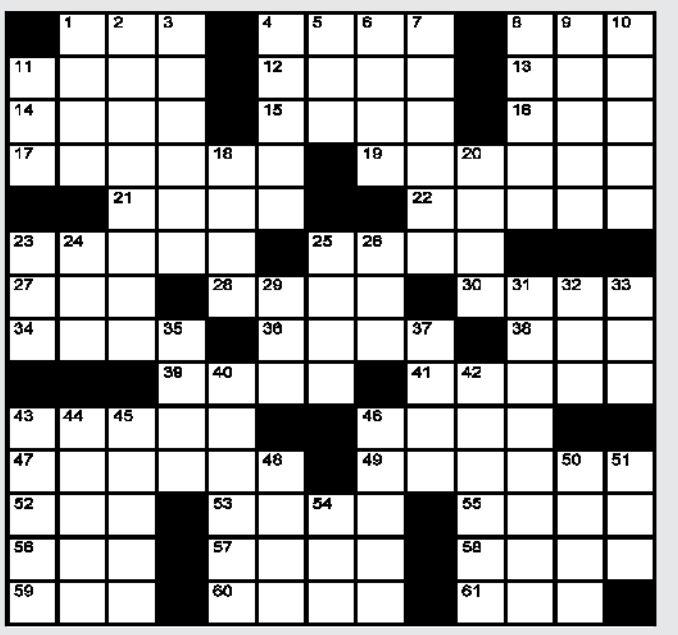


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

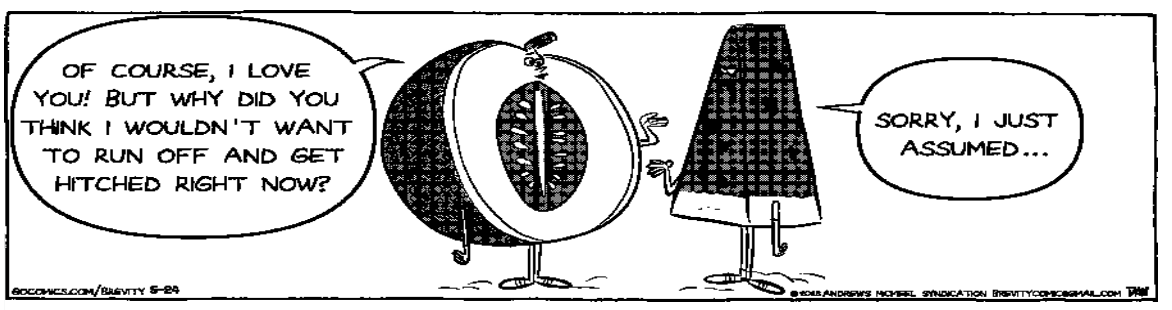
ACROSS
1 Amateurish actor
4 Ancient Brit
8 Wool cap
11 Challenge
12 Time of day
13 Argentina's — Peron
14 Isle of exile
15 — — uncertain terms
16 Small change in old France
17 — or later
19 Greek mathematician
21 Harvest
22 Clearing
23 Looks searchingly
25 Repeat
27 Physicians' org.
28 Lock maker
30 Add color to
34 Tooth's soft center
36 Onionlike plant
38 Born (Fr.)
39 Secular
41 Unsophisticated
43 Place
46 Master of ceremonies
47 Fastened a certain way
49 Morality
52 Hgt.
53 Tablet
55 — avis
56 Presidential monogram
57 Tom, Dick and Harry
58 Surmounting
59 Lend an —
60 Calendar abbr.
61 Cat's cry

DOWN
1 Nimbus
2 Living in trees
3 Even nastier
4 Bird noise
5 Many years
6 "Clair de —"
7 Manger
8 Inventor Nikola —
9 Steer clear of
10 Bea Arthur TV role
11 — Moines, Iowa
18 Relaxed
20 Coagulate
23 Food for babies
24 Down Under bird
25 Energy type (Abbr.)
26 So-so grade
29 Actress — MacGraw
31 Start
32 State near Cal.
33 Golf peg
35 Blueprint
37 Tangle
40 Skilled ones
42 Hindu religious retreat
43 Digging tool
44 Actress — Swinton
45 Make ingress
46 Serf
48 Catastrophic
50 Boast
51 Plant secretion
54 Cup edge



5-24 © 2025 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

OOOHHH! SPRING ATHLETIC SIGN-UPS ARE DUE IN TWO WEEKS! NOW'S THE TIME TO WORK ON THOSE PHYSIQUES!
BASEBALL, MARCHING BAND, TENNIS AND TRACK! SIGN UP FOR ALL FOUR, AND YOU'RE GUARANTEED A SIX-PACK!
WAIT! I'M NOT DONE!
SORRY ABOUT THAT! MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE OVER. HAVE A GOOD DAY!
THAT WAS ENTERTAINING.
BRING BACK THE ACTOR!!

Niles woman sentenced on weapon, drunk driving charges

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles woman was sentenced to probation and jail on weapon and drunk driving charges in Berrien County Trial Court Monday at the Niles courthouse.

Karla Oshay Menefee, 39, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and operating with a high blood alcohol content and was sentenced to two years probation, 20 days in jail with credit for two days served, 180 days tether, 100 hours of community service and $618 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred March 19 in Niles.

She also pleaded guilty to contempt of court for violating her bond condition to not drink alcohol and was given a concurrent jail term of 20 days with credit for two days served.

Defense attorney Shayne Williams said that Menefee was storing the weapon in her car as her 15 year old stepson cannot be around guns. Williams noted that Menefee's only prior conviction was in 2013 for drunk driving.

Menefee

"This is your second offense as an adult for drinking and driving," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said. "Your first offense was very similar to this. I don't care if you drink, but don't get in a car."

Judge Hosbein said that Menefee was charged with drunk driving and reckless driving back in 2013. "You're a dangerous person on the road," he told her. "The firearm could be a lapse, I'm not as concerned about that. My main concern is your drinking and driving. You're going to hurt somebody some day and I don't want that to happen."

The judge said he feared that Menefee has likely driven drunk other times but just not gotten caught. "It's likely you've done this more and only been caught twice," he aid. "I don't know if you're learned your lesson."

In another sentencing, an Elkhart man will have the chance to keep a felony off his record if he's successful on probation.

Caleb Charles Howell, 23, of Elkhart, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon in a motor vehicle and was sentenced to 18 months probation under the Holmes Youthful Training Act, credit for three days served, 20 hours community service and $618 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Feb. 3 in Niles Township. The sentence won't be on his record if he is successful on probation.

Howell apologized for his actions. "I'm sorry for breaking the law," he said. "I know ignorance is no defense, but this won't happen again."

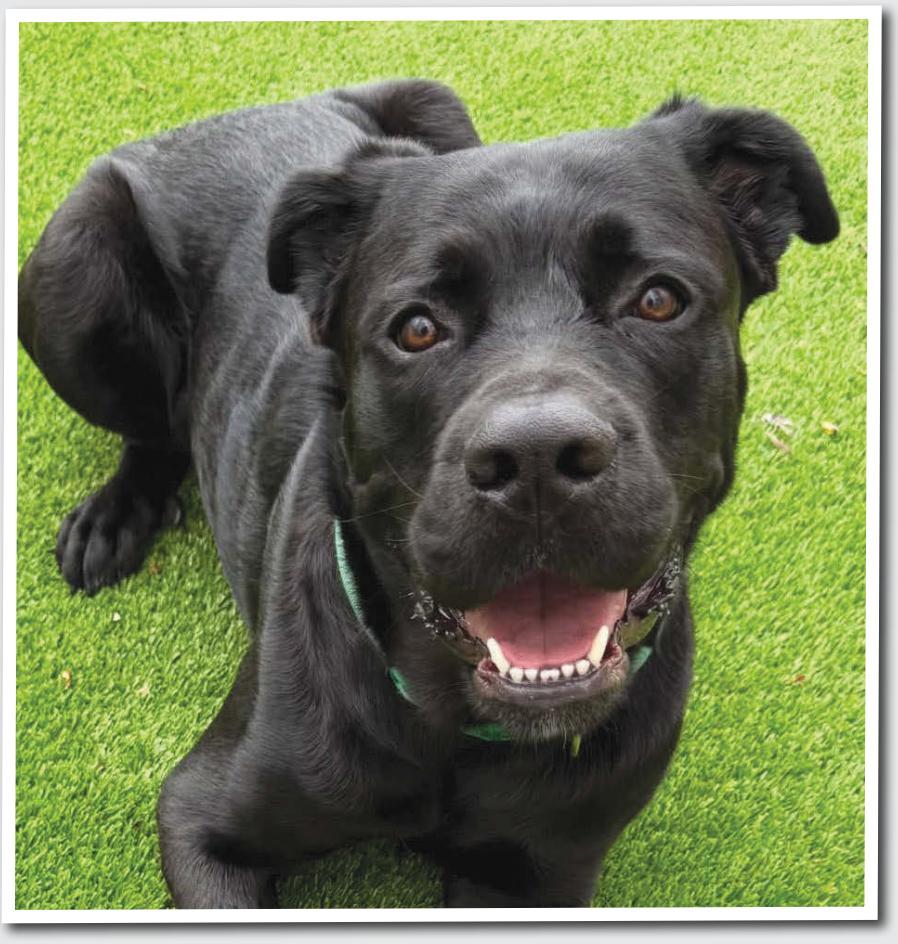
Judge Hosbein noted that the court sees a lot of cases like this due to being so close to the border.

Join us on a group trip.
June 17-21 – Iowa, Mississippi River Cruise and more.
July 9-10 – Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.
Aug. 17-22 – Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Louisville, and more.
Nov. 5-7 -- Frankenmuth
SIGNAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
Give us a call or see our website for more information.
269-684-2880 ♦ 1-800-811-1528 ♦ www.signaltravel.com

ECKLER'S PRODUCE
FRESH PICKED ASPARAGUS
RIPE TOMATOES AVAILABLE ALL SIZES
RHUBARB
BULK SEED ONION SETS SEED POTATOES
FULL LINE VEGETABLE PLANTS
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES
DRY GOURDS FOR CRAFTING
1879 Barron Lake Road • Niles, MI 49120
7 Days a Week • 9am to 5:30pm
269-683-2509
www.EcklerFarms.com

Did You Know...
Using protective devices like alarm systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and dead bolt locks could get you a discount on homeowner's insurance?
Call today to find out more!
(269) 683-4900
Business • Home
Auto • Life • Farm
IMS Insurance Management Service
Auto-Owners Insurance
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
214 N. 4th St., Niles
www.imsinsuranceagency.com
(269) 683-4900

PET OF THE WEEK



Kane is a 1.5-year-old Cane Corso from Lucky Dog Ranch. He is described as a playful boy who loves to give hugs and go on walks. LDR staff taught him to do obstacles at The Woods Fitness Park and he enjoys showing off his skills. Kane is current on shots and neutered. Contact Lucky Dog Ranch, mike@luckydogranchswm.com.

Berrien County sets 2025 tax rates

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH – Berrien County Commissioners have set the 2025 tax rates starting with the summer tax collection in action at their weekly meeting Thursday morning.

The setting of the millage rates for the 2025 year came after commissioners heard from Equalization Director Warren Parrish in April and accepted his equalization report. Parrish reported then that his department had done hundreds of assessment related studies in preparing the report.

County wide, equalized values went up 16 percent from 2023 to 2024 and is going up 7.6 percent from 2024 to 2025. The total equalized value for real and personal property in 2025 is $15.73 billion, up from $14.62 billion in 2024.

The millage rates approved at Thursday's meeting were for the upcoming summer and winter tax collections. The summer levy will be 4.7408 mills for the general fund, while the winter levies will be 0.4469 mill for 9-1-1 service, 0.3476 mill for public safety, 0.2979 mill for senior citizen centers and 0.0994 mill for county parks.

The revenue received for the various funds is based on the millage rate multiplied by the 2025 taxable value of $10.612 billion which excludes the value of renaissance zone properties, disabled veterans' properties and senior housing.

> "Warren caught an assessing error that has a massive monetary impact on the county. You could line up dozens of assessments who wouldn't have caught it. He caught it, his work is so solid."
> — **County Administrator Brian Dissette**

A total of $62.96 million is expected to be collected for the five county funds with the bulk of It, $50.3 million, going to the county general fund.

Parrish's efforts when it comes to equalization were recognized by County Board Vice-Chairman Teri Freehling and County Administrator Brian Dissette.

"I want to recognize Warren Parrish for his work," Freehling said. "We are not having a Headlee rollback of our millage rates this year because of his work. He went over all the calculations and it will have an impact of $300,000 just this year."

"Warren caught an assessing error that has a massive monetary impact on the county," Dissette told commissioners. "You could line up dozens of assessments who wouldn't have caught it. He caught it, his work is so solid."

Dissette reminded commissioners that there isn't a county board meeting next Thursday, May 29, as it is a fifth Thursday. Commissioners don't meet on fifth Thursdays of a month or when a holiday falls on a Thursday.

The county board's next meeting will be June 5 at the 19 North Froehlichs meeting center in Three Oaks. The board will have two more night meetings this year, July 10 at the Watervliet Charter Township Hall and Aug. 7 at the MSU Extension Service Center near Benton Harbor.

Dissette said he's again offering facility orientation tours to county commissioners in advance of the June 5 meeting in Three Oaks. This time, he will lead a tour of county owned facilities in the south county including the south county courthouse in Niles, the Bakertown garage south of Buchanan and Madeline Bertrand County Park south of Niles.

In action Thursday, commissioners approved applying for annual grants for the county's specialty court programs. The county is applying for $139,758 for the mental health court, $189,440 for the Swift & Sure Sanctions program and $52,755 for the drug treatment court.

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Board of Trustees of the Township of Ontwa will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.1627 mills in the operating tax millage to be levied on property in 2025

The hearing will be held on June 9, 2025, at 5:45 PM at the Ontwa Township Hall located at 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Action on the proposed additional millage will be taken at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 3.11% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing.

If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 1.45% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice published by:
Township of Ontwa,
26225 US 12
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
Phone number 269-663-2347

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

	H	A	M		C	E	L	T		T A M
D	A	R	E		H	O	U	R		E V A
E	L	B	A		I	N	N	O		S O U
S	O	O	N	E	R		E	U	C	L I D
		R	E	A	P			G	L	A D E
P	E	E	R	S		E	C	H	O	
A	M	A		Y	A	L	E		T	I N T
P	U	L	P		L	E	E	K		N E E
			L	A	I	C		N	A	I V E
S	T	E	A	D			H	O	S	T
P	I	N	N	E	D		E	T	H	I C S
A	L	T		P	I	L	L		R	A R A
D	D	E		T	R	I	O		A	T O P
E	A	R		S	E	P	T		M	E W

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

3	8	6	1	4	5	2	7	9
4	1	7	6	2	9	3	5	8
5	9	2	7	3	8	4	6	1
7	6	1	4	8	2	9	3	5
9	2	3	5	6	1	7	8	4
8	4	5	9	7	3	1	2	6
2	3	9	8	1	6	5	4	7
1	7	8	3	5	4	6	9	2
6	5	4	2	9	7	8	1	3

DEATH NOTICES

Norman Arnold, 96, of Niles, passed away on May 18, 2025. Funeral services were May 22, 2025. Arrangements were entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Gene Raderstorf, 81, of Granger, passed May 17, 2025. Graveside services 11am on May 27, 2025 at Mission Hills Memorial Gardens. Arrangements by Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Susan Claire Wills, 68, of Berrien Springs passed away, Friday, May 16, 2025. Services were Wednesday, May 23, 2025, 4 p.m., at Allred Funeral Home.

Lorraine Drew, 93, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. A service will be on May 25 at PMC.www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Marlene Mast, 82, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home. Visitation and Services on May 28th & 29th. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Jennifer Myers, 48, of Berrien Springs passed away Tuesday, May 20,, 2025 at Hanson Hospice. Arrangements are currently pending and have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home.

Randy Case, 80, of Eau Claire, passed away Tuesday May 20, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Bowerman Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Bruce Faye Sayer, 78, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Monday, May 19, 2025, in South Bend, Indiana. Services have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

Judy O'Brien

April 6, 1950 - April 5, 2025

Carla Jean Lundeberg Ca-Judy (Paul) O'Brien, 74, left this earth on April 5, 2025, with both of her daughters by her side. Judy was born April 6, 1950, in Dowagiac, Michigan. Following high school, she became a dedicated Michigan State University Spartan, where she earned her BA in Education and MA in Outdoor Education.

Upon graduating, Judy returned to Dowagiac to devote her life to teaching, impacting thousands of students over her 30-plus-year career teaching elementary grades in Dowagiac and later working with student teachers at Michigan State University.

Judy had an adventurous spirit and found countless ways to combine her love of teaching with adventures she could share with her students. These included annual trips to Mackinac Island for the Michigan Reading Association's Summer Literature conference and working the Language Arts Camp hosted at Van Buren Youth Camp, introducing her to a myriad of children's authors and illustrators. A speaking engagement with the International Reading Association took her to Ireland, and she traveled to Japan as a Fulbright Fellowship Scholar. Judy also found herself sailing the high seas with two different Teacher at Sea programs. She spent 5 weeks in Woods Hole, MA, sailing around Cape Cod with Sea Education Association, and then boarded a NOAA Stellar Sea Lion cruise off the coast of Alaska. Judy traveled to Australia several times with MSU, leading student teachers on study abroad trips.

Judy was recognized for her craft throughout her career. She was a state finalist for NASA's Teacher in Space program and was later awarded the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Grant, giving her a sabbatical to create an intensive writing curriculum for the district. Her unique "Islands" theme for her 1991 5th-grade class earned her Rand McNally's National Geography teacher of the year. She was the recipient of MSU's Distinguished Alumni and Crystal Apple award. She served as a Teacher's Choice Coordinator for the International Reading Association, where her reviews of 300 books per year filled her home, classroom, and school library bookshelves.

Judy was never happier than when she was with her grandchildren. Her early retirement was spent exposing them to all of her favorite spots like Silver Beach and Sarett Nature Center or simply spending hours swinging in the hammock in her front yard. Later, she took great joy in receiving hugs and spending time listening to her youngest grandson play in her presence.

Judy is survived by her two daughters - Rhiannon (Brian) Mulligan and Jane (Will) Godfrey; three grandchildren - Alanna Mulligan, Teague Mulligan, and Alder Godfrey; three siblings -Jack (Melissa) Paul, Jill Paul, and Jim (Barb) Paul; nephew - Jack (Anna) Paul; and great-niece - Addi Paul. She is preceded in death by her parents - Jack and Eleanor (Sullivan) Paul.

Honoring Judy's wishes, cremation has taken place and her brain has been donated to the Brain Support Network to help advance Alzheimer's research. Rhiannon and Jane would like to thank the staff at Emmanuel Hospice for the generous care they gave Judy over the past two years of her life. Those wishing to honor Judy may make donations to Sarett Nature Center or E. Root Fitch Camp. A celebration of life will take place at the Dowagiac Area History Museum on June 14th, 2025, from 2:30pm-4:30pm. Local arrangements have been entrusted to Clark Chapel and Cremation Services - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Please visit Judy's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to her family at www.clarkch.com.

Brady F. Chaffee

April 16, 1957 - May 18, 2025

Brady Frederick Chaffee Jr., 68, of Vandalia, died May 18, 2025 with family by his side.

His life began April 16, 1957 in Three Rivers, the fifth of eight children born to Brady Sr. and Harriette Chaffee.

Brady lived a simple life and was a simple man. He grew up and went to school in Constantine. When he was young, he enjoyed hunting with his brothers and teasing his sisters. Brady loved his community and was always helpful. He would give sweet corn and the chicken he raised to his neighbors and friends. He maintained the property and raised his own animals at Wildcat Ranch in Marcellus. Brady enjoyed hard work and raising animals. He farmed and was well known as a fabricator and welder, repairing farm equipment. Brady was a prankster and loved to get under people's skin. That was his way of showing love. Brady was always there for his family and friends if they were in need.

Brady will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by one daughter, Christina Farnsworth of Lagrange two sons, Robert (Shannon) Chaffee of Gillette Wyoming, Kevin Chaffee of Vandalia; ten grandchildren; four great grandchildren; three sisters, Judy (Pat) Malone, Theresa (Ken) Blazier, Cathy Sherck; one brother, Dale (Terri) Chaffee and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, two brothers and his daughter, Bernita May Chaffee. The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Mary Jane Wood Zabinski

September 13, 1945 - May 8, 2025

Mary Jane Wood Zabinski - Entrepreneur, World Traveler, Photographer, Animal Lover, and Beloved Sister

Born and raised in Niles, Michigan and a longtime resident of the Hilton Head area, Mary Jane died peacefully in Okatie, South Carolina. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jerome W. and Priscilla Barbary Wood, her sister Barbara Wood Cook of Niles, and her husband, Leo Zabinski. She is survived by her sister Carolyn Wood of Okatie, South Carolina.

After her sister received a Ph.D., she asked their mother, "Which of your three daughters is the smartest?" Priscilla responded without hesitation, "Oh, Mary Jane of course!" Her sister was taken back a bit, but then she had to agree. Mary Jane, who received a B.S. degree from Creighton University in Business Administration, became an entrepreneur and owner of several successful businesses. She was the owner and CEO of a Stretch & Sew Fabric Center in Worcester, MA and received awards from the national office for "Top Sales Performance in the New England region." When she moved to Hilton Head she established, developed and operated a new H&R Block franchise. She received awards for franchise growth and also became an

See OBITUARIES, Page A8

J&H OIL CO.

Choose The Leader In:
- Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
- Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
- Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
- Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
- Fuel Locations in Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso

Contract/Fixed Price Options
- Volume Discounts
- Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
- Premium Diesel Fuel
- Hoses & Filters in stock

QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS

J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes

PACIFIC PRIDE · Phillips 66 Lubricants · Mobil · Marathon · CITGO

J&H OIL CO.

Quality Petroleum Distributors
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

Teifke's Greenhouse
Over 50 varieties of tomato plants!
Over 6 greenhouses to browse!
Flower & Vegetable Plants
Hanging Baskets
Geraniums
12371 Hills Rd. - Buchanan, MI
7 miles north of Buchanan
off Glendora Rd.
269-422-1665
Open 7 days 10:00 - 5:30
Cash, Checks accepted
SB-835935-1

Mutant X Pepper Plants
The hottest pepper in the world!

Honor CREDIT UNION
5.15% APY*
Benefits Checking
A free checking account that pays you.

David Anderson
Honor Credit Union Member
Allendale, MI
Get Started
HonorCU.com/Bonus
*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates accurate as of 11/1/24, $25 minimum deposit required to open. Earn the 5.15% APY on balances of up to $10,000.00. Members not meeting the Dividend Requirements will not earn dividends. Dividend Requirements are e-Statements, Direct Deposit, at least 20 debit card transactions per month that clear your account as signature-based or PIN-based point of sale (POS) debit transactions (PIN-based ATM transactions not eligible; please note that Honor posts transactions based on how they are received from merchants) and minimum 1 monthly online banking login. ^ATM foreign surcharge fees will be refunded monthly up to $20/month. Members not meeting requirements will not earn ATM foreign surcharge fee refunds. No free checks offered on this account. One account per Member. Rate is variable and may change after account is opened. Insured by NCUA.

Wagner FAMILY FUNERALS
burials • cremations
Only you can understand your loss...
...we care enough to try.
Connelly Chapel
Cassopolis
269.445.2435
Pobocik Chapel
Three Oaks
269.756.3831
wagnercares.com

AWARDS

Continued from page A1

• **Niles Apple Festival Scholarships:** Skyla Cole, Emma Williams, Mattalyn Weinberg
• **NHS Athletic Boosters:** Kayla Kiggins, Aydan McCarey
• **Niles Historical Scholarship:** Zach Hines
• **Lou Milley Memorial Scholarship:** Ilyee Wirick
• **William F Alford Jr. Memorial Scholarship:** Natalie Wilds
• **Gottlieb Christ Memorial Scholarship/Keith Shurte Memorial Scholarship:** Emma Williams
• **Niles Service League Scholarship:** Angelica Mazumder, Emma Williams, Kelly Nelson
• **Niles Noon Optimist Scholarships:** Soccer - Andrew Mata; General - Ilyee Wirick, Jetson Rodgers
• **O.W. Coolidge Scholarship:** Aydan McCarey
• **Patrick Curran Memorial Scholarship:** Zach Hines
• **Lesley Bookout Scholarship:** Leah Martin
• **Richard Kaup Memorial Scholarship:** Kloe Kiggins
• **Thomas A. Roberts Memorial Scholarship:** Aydan McCarey
• **Ronald H Miller Journalism Scholarship:** Emma Williams
• **Stephen Tyler Memorial:** Rowan Iwaniuk, Angelica Mazumder
• **Viking 40 Plus Scholarship:** Myles Jones
• **Viking 40 Plus Honoring Larry Flewelling:** Elias Babler
• **Niles Community Schools Board of Education Senior Scholarship:** Nathan Ritter
• **The Southwest Michigan Society of Women Engineers Scholarship:** Angelica Mazumder

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

STAGE

Continued from page A1

Leep), Outstanding Choreography in a Musical (Catherine Wood) and Outstanding Set Design in a Musical (Emma Hurley).

Cassopolis earned a WAVE Award for "Beetlejuice, Jr." for Outstanding Direction in a Musical (Patrick Bondy).

Edwardsburg was nominated for 10 awards and Cassopolis three.

Loosely designed after Broadway's famed Tony Awards, the WAVE Awards is meant to recognize, encourage and promote excellence in high school musical theatre.

This annual event also offers students and production staff a valuable educational opportunity through written feedback from highly qualified arts professionals, additional performance opportunities, scholarship opportunities, a sense of belonging and value in the local arts community, and public recognition for a job well done.

TREES

Continued from page A1

the Cass County Parks to plant three new trees.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to carry on this legacy of our Chapter and to thank the people at the County parks for their collaboration and support," Brady said.

On April 13, 1944, the Regent of Captain Samuel Felt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Harvey Sherman, wrote a letter to the Cassopolis Vigilant urging them to join in a project to honor the local men and women who were serving in World War II. Her proposed project—to plant trees in honor of the fallen and create a memorial at a roadside park on the road between Dowagiac and Cassopolis.

She stated that members of the local Chapter had already met with representatives of Cass County, Michigan State Highway and Conservation Departments. Mrs. Sherman asked that every local civic and patriotic organization support the project. The community responded and over the next three years made it happen.

Members of the community purchased trees for $10, the stretch of highway was named the Veteran's Memorial Highway and the park near Beeson Road was dedicated to those "making the supreme sacrifice." Local civic organizations, veterans associations, and churches worked with Cass County to clear the area and build the park. School children in Cass County raised money for the flag and flag pole.

On June 14, 1947, the Captain Samuel Felt Chapter NSDAR held a small ceremony. They dedicated a boulder with a bronze plaque noting the DAR support for the project at the north end of the park. They also placed a time capsule in the base for the flag pole with names of all Cass County residents served in World War II along with names of all who contributed to the park project.

More than 1,000 people attended the official dedication ceremony on June 29, 1947, when the flag pole was raised and bronze plaques with names of 87 men who died in World War II. In April 1948, another ceremony was held as the members of the DAR planted a tree grown from the shoots of the "Washington Elm".

In 1988, the Michigan Department of Transportation turned the park over to the Cass County Road Commission and it is currently maintained by the Cass County Parks Department. Since 1988, plaques honoring the dead of World War I, Korea, and Vietnam have been added to the Memorial.

ZOLMAN

Continued from page A2

further their education. We thought that some financial assistance would help our students who have persevered through incredible obstacles. These are our future leaders in our communities, and we want to encourage them to never give up on their dreams because hard work always pays off", says Nate Zolman, Owner.

Zolman's launched the Zolman's Student Leadership Award in order to reward local students and parents and to show appreciation for hard working students who demonstrate service to the community.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A7

Enrolled Agent with the Internal Revenue Service. After five years with H&R Block, she became the CEO of The Ledger Company, an agency that provided medical billing services to local hospitals, laboratories, and physicians, supervising 55 employees and billing over $10,000,000 annually for clients. She retired in 2009.

Mary Jane was a world traveler in every sense of the word. She traveled to 110 countries, many more than once. One of her favorite travel experiences was a two week visit to the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharmsala, India where she taught photography and multimedia development to children in the village. Mary Jane co-authored a 380-page travel book, Maximize Your Cruise and Destination Experience. Also, she and her sister created numerous multimedia travel presentations (containing photos, music, animation and movies) allowing viewers to literally feel the excitement involved in world travel.

Mary Jane grew up on a farm in Michigan surrounded by: ducks, peacocks, pigs, cattle, and many cats, dogs, and horses. As a teenager she was quite successful in showing Arabian horses around the United States. One of her most exciting experiences was winning a 3-Gaited Stake Class when two professional trainers from other farms hoisted her to their shoulders in celebration. Her love of animals continued throughout her life as evidenced by her service on the Board of Directors of the Hilton Head Humane Association and becoming one of three founding members and President of the Spay/Neuter Alliance and Clinic (SNAC).

Committal for Mary Jane Wood Zabinski will be private, on the Wood Family lot in Sumnerville Cemetery, near Niles. Arrangements in Niles are being completed at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Arrangements in Okatie were completed at the Sauls Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in Mary Jane's memory to your favorite charity or to Jasper Animal Rescue Mission, 1352 Carters Mill Rd, Ridgeland, SC 29936. Condolences may be sent to:
cjwoodnm@gmail.com
and shared at:
https://www.saulsfh.com/obituary/MaryJane-Zabinksi
or at:
www.halbritterwickens.com

Mary Jane was a very kind, caring, helpful, happy spirit, who was a blessing to many.

FINAL NOTE from Mary Jane's sister: While writing her obituary, I looked out the window and saw something I had never seen nor heard of before -- a unique black butterfly with white circles on its wings. I knew it was a sign from Mary Jane that she was and would continue to watch over me. I have since learned that black butterflies are symbols of transformation representing the cycle of life, death, and rebirth. Additionally, they personify spiritual protection and guidance from deceased loved ones.

Robert Clayton
PLASTERING & DRYWALL
30+ Years Experience
• Fast Dependable Service
• Clean Quality Work
• Finish and Repair
• Water Damage Specialist
269-695-7621
4060 W. Bertrand • Niles, MI

Lorie Bowers, Agent
68935 Gateway Dr.
PO Box 623
Edwardsburg, MI
49112-0623
Bus: 269-663-7015
www.LorieBowers.com
Family is Why WE DO IT ALL
Call or visit for all of your insurance needs.
Office Hours:
Monday: 9 am to 6 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday by Appointment
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE®
StateFarm.com® • State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

PIPESTONE SMALL ENGINE
We now carry Simplicity
Mowers, Chainsaws, Power Equipment
Engines, Parts, Service, Tractors
Husqvarna
GRAVELY
• Cylinder Boring
• Machine Shop
• Engine Rebuilding
• Crankshaft Regrinding
Kohler • Tecumseh • Briggs & Stratton
Ariens • Husqvarna • Tanaka • Gravely
4947 Park Road, Eau Claire, MI 49111 • 269-461-6421
www.pipestonesmallenginemi.net

JIM D'S Body Shop
BODY JIM D'S SHOP
M-51 SOUTH, DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN
269-782-2728
"Collision Repairs Are Our Business"
Body and Frame Repair
Insurance Work Welcome

POKAGON AUTOMOTIVE
• Oil Changes
• Tire Service
• Brakes
• Auto Inspection
• Tune Ups
• Fleet Repair
• Suspension Work
• Batteries
• Used Tires
Synthetic Blend Oil Change $34.95*
*see us for details
60857 M-51, Dowagiac, MI 49047
(574) 339-9205
Next to Mantke's Mini Mart

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Celebrate a life

SWEM CHAPEL
301 W Front St, Buchanan
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks
Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

TENNIS

Brandywine, Buchanan girls tennis advance to D4 state finals

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ALLEGAN — The Brandywine and Buchanan girls tennis teams will be heading to the state finals.

The Bobcats and the Bucks tied for runner-up at the Division 4 regional at Allegan to qualify as a team for the Michigan High School Athletic Association State Championships. The Division 4 finals will be held in Midland on May 29.

Brandywine and rival Buchanan finished with 20 points while Dowagiac placed ninth overall with one point.

Leading the way for the Bobcats was sophomore Louisa Peterson, who defeated Buchanan's Finley Kehoe 6-4,6-4 to win a regional championship in No. 4 singles. Buchanan also had a regional championship in the No. 3 doubles team Lillian Wegener/Morgan Weldy, who defeated Allegan's Sophia Augustine /Emma Scheffler 7-6(5)/6-3.

Brandywine's Ireland Prenkert advanced to the semifinals in no. 1 singles before falling to Schoolcraft's Samantha Pavlak 6-2,6-4. Buchanan's Hana Yamagata defeated Brandywine's Sydney Olsen 6-1,3-6,6-1 in the No. 2 singles semifinals before falling to Schoolcraft's Lotta Groening 7-6(2),6-0 in the championship round. In No. 3 singles, Buchanan's Alex Paturalski defeated Kendall Halstead 7-5,6-0 in the semifinal before falling to Berrien Springs' Kaylee Kwon 6-3,6-3 in the championship.

Brandywine's Aubree Murray fell in the semifinals to Kwon 6-3,6-2.

In doubles action, Brandywine's No. 1 doubles team of Ashlyn Kohler/Allie Curtis-Lee advanced to the semifinals, as did Buchanan's No. 1

See TENNIS, Page B2

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TRACK

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Local athletes win regional titles, qualify for state finals

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BANGOR — It was a big day for area track athletes as the Michigan High School Athletic Association hosted its Division 3 Regional Meet at Bangor High School.

Buchanan's Madeline Young earned four regional titles in four events. The Bucks' 1,600-meter relay team of Young, Audrey Lietz, Justyce Cashier and Ava Graham ran a time of 4:23.23 and the 3,200-meter team of Adyson Baker, Young, Makynna Williams and Alaina Nagel posted a time of 10:46.26. Young also earned regional titles in the 1,600-meter run (5:41.70) and the 3,200-meter run (12:45.75).

Also qualifying for Buchanan was Audrey Lietz, who placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.63.

Brandywine qualified seven events for state, including two regional champions. Makenna Price earned a regional title in long jump with a distance of 16-2. Senior Miley Young took first place in the 800-meter run with a personal-best time of 2:30.95. Lily Gill placed second in both the 100-meter hurdles (16.65) and 300-meter hurdles (48.43).

The Bobcats also placed second in the 800-meter (Karleigh Byrd, Miley Young, Mackenna Price, Lily Gill in 1:50.57), 1,600-meter (Young, Byrd, Lily Gill, Price in 4:33.89) and 3,200-meter (Young, Alison Murray, Allison Kline, Emily Kline 10:58.78) relays to qualify for state.

On the boys' side, several athletes took home medals. Cassopolis' Aaron Buck-Hooper was regional champion in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.16 and Jaylen Pratt took first in high jump with a 6-0 leap. The 400-meter relay team of Nikolas Craig, Jaylen Pratt, Cameron Steward and Aarenn Buck-Hooper qualified for state with a time of 44.31.

Buchanan's 3,200-meter relay team of Liam McBeth, Jack Sherwood, John Keser and Jacob Kuntz earned a regional title with a time of 8:30.40. The Bucks' 800-meter relay team of Carson Deming, Tate Figy, Tyler Frame and Jackson Sherwood ran a time of 1:33.75 to finish second and qualify for the state finals and the 1,600-meter relay team of Sherwood, McBeth, Deming and Frame placed with a time of 3:35.46.

Individually, McBeth placed second in the 800-meter run with a 2:03.91 and Frame jumped a 6-0 to place second in high jump.

Brandywine's Kaden Santana earned a regional title in long jump with a 20:11.75.

TRACK

CHIEFTAIN CHAMP

Dowagiac adaptive track athlete celebrates new experiences, two regional titles

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

DOWAGIAC — Ethan Nearpass has never been one to shy away from enjoying new experiences.

Like most teenagers, the 16-year old Dowagiac High School sophomore keeps himself busy through his participation in extra curricular activities, including sporting events.

Despite suffering from Spina Bifida that has him confined to a wheelchair, Ethan competes in sled hockey, wheelchair basketball and this spring he joined the Dowagiac High School track and field team.

Ethan's parents, Guy and Melissa Nearpass, rented a racing chair from Turnstone Athletics in Fort Wayne, Ind. that deals with paralympic athletes. There are options for customers to rent a chair for just the season with an opportunity to later purchase one outright if they wish.

After a bit of a learning curve, Nearpass' first season competing on the oval in the 100 and 200-meter dashes in the adaptive category has been a successful one.

It all came to fruition in Friday's Division 2 regional meet at Berrien Springs.

Ethan captured first-place in both the 100 and 200 races which now qualifies him for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's state championships on Saturday, May 31 at Hamilton High School.

After winning the 100 in 26.53, Ethan turned in a personal-best time of 57.53 and also emerged with first place in the 200. His personal best in the 100 is 25.12 in an earlier meet this spring.

Ethan has been grateful to Dowagiac head boys' track

See CHAMP, Page B2

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Dowagiac sophomore Ethan Nearpass nears the finish line in the boys' Adaptive 200-meter dash on Friday in the Division 2 regional meet at Berrien Springs.

SOCCER

BUCHANAN GIRLS SOCCER EARNS LAKELAND CONFERENCE TITLE

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The Buchanan girls soccer team defeated Berrien Springs 1-0 May 14 to win the Lakeland Conference Championship. The Bucks went undefeated in conference play and 15-1-1 overall. The Bucks outscored opponents 76-18 on the season, including seven shut-out victories. The Bucks will face Hartford at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the semifinals of Division 3 district play at Berrien Springs.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GUY NEARPASS | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ABOVE: Ethan Nearpass is pictured with the 8-point buck and doe he obtained while hunting last fall in Angola, Ind.

RIGHT: Ethan Nearpass is shown here in his gear before a sled hockey game for the Rivers City Sled Powers team in South Bend.

BOTTOM: Ethan Nearpass, middle, displays one of the turkeys he shot on a hunt last September. Also pictured at left is Guy Nearpass, Ethan's father, and Adam Selman, a volunteer through Turkey Tracks-Eric Coney Foundation.

MONUMENTS By Design LLC
Cemetery Memorial Stones
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828
www.monumentsbydesignllc.com
monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

Ask Us About Our Pre-Need Plans
PAUL E. MAYHEW FUNERAL HOME, INC.
26863 W. Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI
269-663-5345
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

We'll be there when you need us most
Mission Hills
Memorial Chapel, Crematory & Gardens
- Since 1953 -
Niles • 269-683-8333 • MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com

Slabaugh's Storage Barns
260-768-7989 Leave Message
8x8 up to 14x36
8x8.....$1,695
8x12.....$2,035
10x12.....$2,560
10x16.....$2,905
12x16.....$3,550
12x20.....$4,095
Compare Our Quality & Price!
Assembled & Painted!

LARGE COUNTRY ESTATE SALE & AUCTION
26970 CR 687, Bangor, MI
MAY 29th-31st • 10am-4pm (Auction on Sat at 1 pm)
FURNITURE - 3pc Full sz Vintage/Retro bedroom set, King size bed, 2pc dresser set w/nightstands, Leather couch & overstuffed chair w/ottoman, nice Oak end tables w/coffee table, Oak table lamps w/magazine racks, Maple table w/2 leaves, 6 chairs & small china cupboard. Lighted display case, rockers, gliders, country bookshelf and bench, 2 futon's, TV stands, Wardrobe, white shelf's, desk. Victorian ornate pump organ, Tiger Oak side table, mission style desk, humpback & regular trunks.
DECOR/COLLECTIBLES/HOLIDAY - Nice lamps, Frames and decor sets, lots of candles, Hummingbird and Longerburger Baskets & Decor. Office misc. filling cabinets. Some Costume Jewelry, Nascar/Racing/Sport collectibles, Beer signs (tin & plastic) banners and beer blowups. Small amount of Holiday items and lots of Christmas (indoor/outdoor) candle blow molds.
KITCHENWARES - Rolling kitchen cart, cookbooks, Pyrex, Fire King & Corelle pcs, Wear Ever copper bottom & Green Pan pot's & pans set's, Pampered Chief and Tupperware. Lots of small appliances many NIB & as seen on TV, mini frig, microwave, linens & Utensils Lots of Cleaning supplies, canning jars and misc.
LINENS/CLOTHING/MEDICAL - Lots of New Womans clothing sizes XL-XXL, shoes, purses and Jackets, some Vintage clothing. Sheet sets, Towel sets & Blankets, Curtains, Table linens. Home medics equipment, Cpap Machine, One Touch Ultra 2, Sunmark True Track Smart System, T-slim X2 Machine (3ml)-lots of Diabetic supplies many New.
TOYS/GAMES - Tyco A - Team Action Racing in Box, Heinz Burger Blaster Rocket ship, Vintage board games, puzzles, lots of Vintage Racing items, models, Vintage Ball caps.
EQUIPMENT/TOOLS - Amana Washer & Dryer, Vacuum cleaners, carpet cleaner, drill press, welder, torch cart, air compressor, grinder, standing tool box's, generator, battery charger, Fishing poles, hand tools, work benches.
GARAGE/OUTDOOR - Picnic table, grill, pot belly stove, metal shelving, lawn cart, wheel barrel. Woods Mow N Machine 0-turn, Schwinn, Columbia and misc Bikes most Vintage, Scooters, mopeds.
AUCTION ITEMS - To be Sold Saturday at 1:00 ALL items available to view during Sale and Absentee bids Accepted.
2010 Chevy Malibu 4 dr Sedan with less than 100k mi- nice running car
F-20 McCormick Deering Farmall Tractor
McCormick Farmall Cub Tractor
Wheel Horse Tractor
Harley Davidson 3 wheel Golf Cart
P-461 Hydraulic car lift (Heavy Duty)
C & B Sales and Services
(269) 357-9724 or (269) 684-3813
See Estatesales.net for more details and pictures

CHAMP

Continued from page B1

and field coach and his assistant coaches for their support and inspiration.

"Coach Wiliams and Coach Clark are very supportive and uplifting and they asked me if I'd be interested in joining the team. I wasn't ever aware that adaptive sports was a thing in track and field. The wheelchair I use for my races is much different than the one I'm used to. When you're using the one for racing you have to keep your head down the whole time and I use special gloves so I can make a fist to operate the chair. It took me a few meets before I got used to it. The 200 is a tougher race because it's longer and there are a couple turns. I'm excited about going to state. I just want to do my best and maybe win, but we'll see how it goes," Ethan said.

"I just really enjoy being able to compete and be part of the team with people I know from school, laugh and cheer my other teammates on."

It was Williams who approached Ethan's mother to see if he'd be interested in joining Dowagiac's track program. Williams had previously coached Ethan's older brother in soccer.

"Ethan's parents are very supportive and do their best to see that he gets as many opportunities to get involved as possible. Ethan gets around at school really well so I thought this sport might be a good opportunity for him. He was nervous at first because he had never performed in front of so many people before. He also had to learn how to operate a racing chair, which is a bit different from a normal wheelchair. He has steadily knocked his time down. One of the biggest challenges, especially in the 200, is to learn how to stay in your lane as you are turning. You have to adjust the handle on the chair to handle turns before clicking it back into place in the straight away," Williams explained. "He's really grasped things well and is enjoying being a member of the team. Ethan is a good all-around kid, very appreciative, and does everything he's asked to do. Now he celebrates when he gets a personal record just like everyone else. I think this sport might take him somewhere if he's interested. They have adaptive sports in college as well. He's a great teammate and all the other kids on our team like him and always have."

Ethan is excited about his future in the sport. Right now he's just focused on continuing his training and seeing where the sport takes him.

Outside of competing in sports, Ethan does well academically and he aspires to one day become an editor for a magazine or newspaper. His current academic load at school includes one Honors class.

Ethan is also an accomplished outdoorsman. An avid hunter, Ethan has gone turkey hunting the last three years and got two birds. Last fall he had the chance to deer hunt in Angola, Ind. where he took down an 8-point Buck and a Doe.

"I'm biased, but Ethan is a pretty amazing kid and we are so thankful for all the opportunities he's been given," Guy Nearpass said. "There are some wonderful organizations that have helped him live a full life and break the molds of what he can and can't do. It's nice to see him out here competing on a team, but it's great to see him improving his times."

Ethan, also recently got his Level 1 driver's license and is now driving with an adult to get his required hours in. He'll take the driving test and Segment 2. His parents have purchased a mobility van and the hand controls were just recently installed allowing him to drive.

TENNIS

Continued from page B1

semifinals, as did Buchanan's No. 1 doubles duo of Olivia Kutemeier/Laura Sweeney. Brandywine's Karleigh Byrd/Adeline Gill defeated Buchanan's Sophia Bachman/Isabella Tibbles in No. 2 doubles to advance to the finals and Brandywine's Chelsy Olson/Lily Gill made it to the semifinals in No. 3 doubles.

Holly Anderson/Allison Murray advanced to the No. 4 doubles finals for the Bobcats.

TENNIS

Edwardsburg girls tennis qualifies for state

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

MARSHALL — Fresh off its first ever Wolverine Conference championship, the Edwardsburg girls tennis team punched its ticket to the state tournament Thursday night.

The Eddies finished runner-up at Marshall to qualify as a team for the Michigan High School Athletic Association State Championships.

The Division 3 finals will be held in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan April 29.

The Eddies placed second overall with a score of 23 points and Niles placed fifth with seven points.

Leading the way for the Eddies were No. 3 singles Verona Moody and the No. 2 and No. 4 doubles teams of Mara VanBuren/Olivia Closson and Brailey Fowler/Kady Yowell, who took home regional titles.

Edwardsburg's No. 1 singles player Erin Letter and No. 3 doubles team Abbie Hartley/Bella Hankins made it to the finals and No. 4 singles Grace Leman, No. 2 singles Julia Lewis and No. 1 doubles Abby Pryor/Mya Eberlein made it to the semifinals.

For Niles, No. 1 singles Cheyenne Small, No. 2 doubles Addison VanDalsen/Emma Williams and No. 3 doubles Brooklyn Hemminger/Scarlet Thalman made it to the semifinal round.

TENNIS

Buchanan softball sweeps Niles

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Buchanan was able to knock off host Niles 12-7 and 7-2 in non-league softball action Monday.

In the first game, Horvath and Weinberg each tallied three hits for the Bucks, including a triple from Weinberg. Berry, Carlson, Legault, and Singleton each tallied two hits and Carlson added three RBIs.

Niles was led offensively by Kloe Kiggins, who had one double and four RBIs. Elrod and Morgan Racht each added two hits, including a double from Racht.

On the mound, Legault picked up the win by striking out three batters while surrendering seven hits and six earned runs in five innings. Niles' Ilyee Wirick struck out one batter while giving up 11 hits and nine earned runs.

On the mound, Legault picked up the win by striking out three batters while surrendering seven hits and six earned runs in five innings.

In game two, Singleton and Berry both homered for the Bucks and with Singleton and Berry totaling two and four RBIs. Weinberg had three hits including a double and Horvath, Carlson and Ely added two hits for the Bucks.

For Niles, Addeline Johnson had two hits and one RBI and McKenna Albright added one RBI.

On the mound, Horvath struck out four batters and gave up two earned runs in the win and Wilken struck out three while surrendering four earned runs for Niles.

MCINTYRE SIGNS WITH TRINE

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Senior left-handed pitcher Josh McIntyre has signed a national letter of intent to continue his education and baseball career at TrineUniversity. One of the area's top pitchers, McIntyre was chosen as a NHS Wolverine Conference Scholar Athletes for the 2024-2025 season.

TRACK

Area athletes earn titles at D2 track and field regionals

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Several area athletes punched their ticket to the state track and field finals in two weeks with superb performances in the May 16 Division 2 regional meet at Berrien Springs.

The top two finishers in each event, plus anyone meeting a pre-determined height, distance or qualifying time in the meet or during the season advances to the MHSAA state finals on Saturday, May 31 in Hamilton.

Edwardsburg's junior high jumping duo of Zachary Overmyer and Sarah Pippin were both regional champions. Overmyer (6-2) won the boys' event, while Pippin (5-3) was first in the girls' competition.

"We had great weather and effort today from our kids with lots of personal bests. It was nice to see Zach and Sarah win titles in high jump. We were again missing our top sprinter in Mobias Stubblefield due to him attending another school event. I'm just so proud of our kids though. We are looking forward to the state meet," said Edwardsburg boys' coach Lito Ramirez.

Edwardsburg junior Madelyn Peat took fifth in pole vault (9-3) with a personal best and qualified on height.

Also placing were Jesten Gregory fourth (5-10) for the Eddies and Dowagiac's Natalie Poorman eighth (4-9) in the high jump.

In the sprints, Niles' Ben Bruckner finished second (11.25) in the 100-meter dash. Dowagiac sophomore Ethan Nearpass was a double regional champion in the Wheelchair Adaptive category with a personal-best time in the 200 (57.53) following a winning time of 26.53 in the 100.

Niles senior hurdler Ayden McCarey was disqualified in the finals of the 110 high hurdles and decided to scratch the 300 Intermediate Hurdles. McCarey had already qualified for the state finals in both hurdle events prior to the regional.

McCarey finished the day strong, however, as regional champion with a personal-best in the 400 (48.92) and he later teamed up with Andre Wells, Lucas Debortoli and Bruckner to win the 1600 relay (3:27.23).

"It was a banner day for us. Ayden had a bad race in the 110s, but he still qualified. He's still the No. 1-ranked hurdler in both races in Division 2 and in the 400. It was really pleasing to have our 1600 relay qualify. Isabel just missed qualifying in the hurdles, but she's going to Southwestern Michigan College to run and should have a good career for them," said Niles head boys' coach Tony Todd.

Edwardsburg's George Scupham placed eighth in the 800 (2:06.88).

Dowagiac's Owen Saylor placed third (4:29.24) with a season-best in the 1600. Scupham finished fourth (4:29.41).

Maguire Johnson from Edwardsburg took seventh in the 3200 (10:26.35).

Bruckner teamed with Wells, Sam Rucker and Peyton Gordon for fourth in the 400 relay (43.14) and Edwardsburg earned eighth (45.55) with Fredrik Sante, Chase Karkiewicz, Gregory and Gio Orue.

Niles qualified its 400 relay based on its time.

Edwardsburg placed third and qualified in the 3200 relay with Scupham, Gregory Jon Leith and Johnson (8:13.09).

Dowagiac claimed seventh in the 800 relay (1:32.46) with Devin Rock, Isaiah Weatherspoon, Quentin Hill and Jaylin Medrano.

Edwardsburg's Lucas Frentz tied for third in pole vault (12-2).

Well placed fifth (20-8) for Niles in long jump and Bruckner earned seventh (20-5).

Edwardsburg's Georgia Babcock placed third (5:20.57) in the 1600 but qualified for state with her time.

Layla Gableman took fifth (13:05.95) with a personal best for the Lady Eddies in the 3200.

In the girls' hurdle events, Izabel Hoskin took third (16.19) in the 100 hurdles and just missed qualifying. Dowagiac's Nadia Poorman swiped eighth in the 300 hurdles (50.22).

Shamrya Clark of Dowagiac placed eighth in the 100 (13.27).

Clark and Poorman joined Tessa Deering and Khamari Mack on Dowagiac's eighth place 400 relay (51.58) that qualified on standard time.

Annika VanBuren, Piper Bryant, Caliana Manfred and Kennedy Goorhouse of Edwardsburg took seventh in the 800 relay (1:50.40).

Babcock, Goorhouse and Manfred joined Cassidy Frentz and finished fifth (4:17.79) in the 1600 relay.

Mike Williams, Dowagiac's head boys' coach, was pleased with the effort given by his team and the Lady Chieftains and stated that the program is looking forward to hosting Wednesday's Lakeland Conference Meet.

"It was nice to see our 400 girls relay qualify and Ethan in the two adaptive races. They have all been working hard. There were several other young athletes for us who missed qualifying by three or four tenths of a second," said Dowagiac head boys' coach Mike Williams.

"This was our second season running on our new track. We are a very young program with no seniors on the girls' team and we lose just three off the boys' squad. The future looks very bright."

Classifieds Marketplace

NILES, BUCHANAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

25 N. 2nd St.
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 591-6105

LeaderPub.com
classifieds@leaderpub.com
public.notices@leaderpub.com

Employment

Job Opportunities

Now Hiring: Multiple Positions
Ligonier, IN
Call 574-293-5900
forgestaff.com/apply

Auctions & Sales

Garage Sales

Multi-Family Garage Sale
207 E BERTRAND RD, NILES,
May 30th 8am-6pm
May 31st 8am-4pm
Stampin' Up, Longaberger baskets, 31 bags, furniture, kid's books, clothes, men's stuff, plus lots more!

Merchandise

Antiques & Collectibles

LOOK!
CJ'S THIS N' THAT FLEA MARKET

"A little bit of everything and a whole lot of deals!"

Antiques, collectibles, new and used merchandise.

Vendor spots available!

6681 US HWY 31,
BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103
OPEN SAT & SUN 10AM-4PM

574-807-5276
269-217-5241

Antiques & Collectibles

GUNS & AMMO
Fast Cash PAID!

WANTED:

- Private and Estate Firearm Collections
- Collectible and Rare Firearms
- Ammunition and Optics
- Any Make, Model, Caliber or Style!

We will come to you for large collections!
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

100 S. Kendall St.
Battle Creek, MI 49037
(269) 963-5588

101 Robinson St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 782-5134

US LUMBER COMPANY

gunbroker@uslumbercompany.com

YOHO'S TREASURE MARKET
INDOOR
FLEA MARKET
AND MORE!
ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES FURNITURE

Booths' Available!
Now Renting from $75+!
Yoho's Treasure Market!
1420 S 11th st.
Niles, MI 49120
Contact Laura Yoho
574-323-0423

Food & Produce

SHOP LOCAL! CHECK OUT THE DEAL WE HAVE HERE!
269-591-6105

Lawn & Garden

FOR SALE BY OWNER
JOHN DEERE HEAVY DUTY MOWER MODEL 403 WITH EXTRA SET OF BLADES, ASKING $500.00 CASH, NO CHECKS.

ROTEMEC 5 FT MOWER 3PT HITCH, RIGHT HAND DISCHARGE, ASKING $500.00 CASH, NO CHECKS CALL 574-250-9094 AFTER 4:PM M-F.

Will Do Custom
Roto-Tilling
Lots of Experience
The Troy Built Way
$40 minimum
269-240-4323

Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

Call (269)462-0183

Want to Buy Merchandise

WANTED
STANDING TIMBER
Large Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking land owners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell
Call: (517)566-8061
qualityhardwoodsinc.com

Notices

Community Events

CALL THE CLASSIFIEDS TO GET YOUR ADS STARTED TODAY! IN PRINT AND ON-LINE AVAILABLE!

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

duLac@nd.edu

Need to find the right employee?
WE CAN HELP.
Reach the county for less using Leader Publications classifieds. Need a quick quote? Submit your ad online at LeaderPub.com.
Call 269-591-6105.

Real Estate

Commercial Real Estate

JOHN SCOTT
INSURACNE AGENCY
269.782.2123

Rentals

Wanted To Rent

Looking for Large Storage Space in Niles or Buchanan Area. All items are clean, no junk. Call (269)262-0162

Transportation

Boats & Watercraft

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400

2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

Motorcycles & ATV's

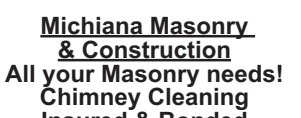
1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

Two Kimco 50cc Scooters
1 midnight blue, Model: Like $1,000
1 Silver, Model: People $500
Excellent condition
269-277-7882

Services

Asphalt & Paving

TODD BAILEY
ASPHALT SEALING
Licensed & Insured 54 Years Experience



Have a driveway that lasts! Protect your investment!
269-277-8827
Call or Text 24/7
Mother's day Special!
$99 OFF
Asphalt work, pothole repair & patching with coupon. Call for Details!

Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

Concrete Work

BRADY CONCRETE
Specializing in:
•Flat work of all types
•Seawalls•Pole Barn Floors
•Stamped Concrete
•Bobcat Services
Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service
269-445-3349 or
269-591-0100

Construction

Michiana Masonry & Construction
All your Masonry needs!
Chimney Cleaning
Insured & Bonded
Senior Discounts
269-362-1566

Principle Construction Services LLC
"Quality is our Principle"
(616)312-8189
Concrete Removal & Replacement, Decks, Driveways, Sidewalks, Pole Barns, Garages, Foundations, Patios
No Job too Big,
No Job too Small!
Licensed and Insured
Principleconst.services@gmail.com

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION
WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE
65280 M-66
STURGIS, MI 49091
SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

Family and Veteran Owned Business in Michiana!
US LUMBER COMPANY | Smith & Co.
Lumber | Hardware | Tools
Roofing | Pole Barns | Trusses
Siding | Windows | Doors
Decking | Kitchens | Baths
No job too Big or Small! Call today for an appointment...or come on in!
Interior & Exterior Designers & Project Management
Professional Construction Estimating
uslumbercompany.com
100 S. Kendall St. Battle Creek, MI 49037 (269) 963-5588
101 Robinson St. Dowagiac, MI 49047 (269) 782-5134

Selling your home?
Advertise here and sell it faster.
Call Classifieds at 269-591-6105.

Junk Removal

AMERICAN TRASH
Trash & Junk Hauling
•Appliances•Truck•Trailer
•Labor•Rental Properties
•Demo Clean-Outs
Veteran Owned Company
Txt/Call: 574-904-8760
useamericantrash.com

Selling your home?
Advertise here and sell it faster.
Call Classifieds at 269-591-6105.

Miscellaneous Services

AMISH FURNITURE
An AMISH LOG HEADBOARD AND Queen Pillow Top Mattress Set. Brand new-never used, sell all for $375. Call anytime, 989-923-1278.

AUCTION
George King Online Estate Auction, bid now through June 3. 2002 Dodge Ram B1500 van, Craftsman mower, milling tools, RC planes, ham radios/ equipment, tools, more at Bid. SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Questions? Call Joe, 1-800-835-0495.

BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuildingsmi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010 or 989-324-0035.

BUSINESS SERVICES
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost $3,995.00 sacrifice for $875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattressMan.com. 989-923-1278

POND/LAKE
Eco-Friendly Pond & Lake weed removal tools. Veteran made in Michigan. Visit our website www.WeedGatorProducts.com or call 989-529-3992. 5% discount code GATOR5.

MISCELLANEOUS
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at $5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

AMISH-built storage sheds starting at $2,500. We deliver anywhere in Michigan! Call 989-832-1866. DanDanTheMattressMan.com

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-776-0121.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-2853.

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS 1 DAY

$1000 OFF*
OR
$1500 OFF when financing with remodelingloans.com** OR **0% Interest** For 18 Months**
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/2025

CALL NOW!
(877) 368-0690

BATH CONCEPTS INC
Military & Senior Discounts Available

*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/2025. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI.

Miscellaneous Services

Houses: 1-855-504-0056

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE $350 today! 1-855-848-7401

Painting & Decorating

RETIRED PAINTER
Small-medium jobs
Interior/exterior
30 years experience
269-683-8219
269-240-7912

Do you have available jobs?

Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

Pressure Washing

J&H POWER WASHING HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.

WHY CALL THE REST WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?
(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

Professional Services

"HONEY DO"
NEED A HAND?
WE'VE GOT 2!
WE STRIVE FOR PERFECTION!
SMALL JOBS ARE SPECIALTY.
FOR FREE ESTIMATES,
CALL 269-815-0711
COVERING SW, MI.

Roofing and Guttering

MIDWEST ROOFING
Family Owned Since 1984
Lifetime Warranty Shingles
Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers
Call (269) 684-7199

Tree Service

BIG MIKES TREE SERVICE & EXCAVATING LLC
- Residential & Commercial
- Tree Trimming/Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Snow Removal
- Firewood
- Excavating
- Lot & Land Clearing
- Demolition

Call/Text for a FREE ESTIMATE!
269-363-8384

EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Auctioning off a few abandoned cars on Thursday, May 29th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at RB Towing 68686 M 62, Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Niles Daily Star:
May 24, 2025
ABANDONED VEHICLES

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

PROJECT NAME:
Niles High School Roof Area B Improvements
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
BASE BID: (21,996 SF)
Leave existing asphalt built-up roof in place and clean surface with wet vac to remove loose gravel ballast and dirt. Fully adhere ⅛" tapered insulation system over existing BUR system. Install fully adhered 45 mil fleece-back KEE roofing membrane. Add 2x wood nailers at roof edge as needed to accommodate insulation thickness. Provide .050 aluminum fascia / roof edge metal. Provide manufacturer's 20-year ndl warranty.

Public Notices

ALTERNATE 1:
Demolish the high school's abandoned chimney stack in its entirety above roof deck. provide roof deck infill to allow new roofing to cover.
OWNER: Niles Community Schools
1 Tyler Street
Niles, MI 49120
(Administrative Offices)
ARCHITECT: CARMI Design Group
210 E. Main Street, Ste. 200
P.O. Box 487
Niles, MI 49120
Phone: 269-663-5073
BID DATE:
Bids will be received at the district's Administrative Offices until 1:00 PM (local time), on Friday, June 13th, 2025.
Bids will be publicly opened at the Administrative Offices and read aloud at this time. Bids received after this time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.
Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Bid Proposal Form included within the Project Manual and submitted in duplicate. Bids shall be clearly marked as "Niles High School Roof Area B Improvements" on the front of the submitted envelope.
PRE-BID MEETING:
A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29th, 2025 at 3:00 PM (local time) at the High School. Please meet at the gym and auditorium entrance (Door #34) on the east side of the high school.

Niles Daily Star:
May 24, 2025
BIDS/ROOF IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

BERTRAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 250408A, 250408B, 250408C

The Charter Township of Bertrand trustees passed the following ordinances on May 8th, 2025 below is the summary, to see the full text please visit www.bertrandtwpmi.gov or at Township Hall at 3835 Buffalo Rd. Buchanan, MI 49107.

Ordinance 250408A: An ordinance to grant the City of Niles, Michigan, the nonexclusive right, power and authority to construct, maintain and operate facilities for the transmission and distribution of electric energy on, along, across and under the highways, streets, bridges, and other public places and to operate and maintain the same and to transact a local business in the Charter Township of Bertrand, Berrien County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years.

Ordinance 250408B: An ordinance to grant the City of Niles, Michigan, the nonexclusive right, power and authority to lay, construct, maintain, and commercially use sewer lines, lift stations, sewer gravity mains, sewer force mains, and associated appurtenances necessary to provide sewer service on, along, across and under the highways, streets, bridges, and other public places and to operate and maintain the same and to transact a local business in the Charter Township of Bertrand, Berrien County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years.

Ordinance 250408C: An ordinance to grant the City of Niles, Michigan, the nonexclusive right, power and authority to lay, construct, maintain, and commercially use water mains, pipes, fittings, valves, fire hydrants, and all accessory equipment and appurtenances on, along, across and under the highways, streets, bridges, and other public places and to operate and maintain the same and to transact a local business in the Charter Township of Bertrand, Berrien County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years, unless earlier terminated under the terms provided in Section 3.

Kalla Langston, Deputy Administrator

Niles Daily Star:
May 24, 2025
ORDINANCE 250408 A/B/C

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 31, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
21	Cecilia Dunifin
56	Nathan Thomas
94	Joshua Thompson
109	Raymond Greathouse
116	Melisa Kaeding
127/633	Chris Norris
145/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
183	Cindy Fisher
184/66	Mary Anderson
192	Patricia Yoder
195	Daniel Beushauser
205	Nancy Bombrys
224	Ricole Haas
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
331	Valerie Outlaw
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
352/355	Andre Ahlers
356	Chase Molica
368	Erin Weed
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
395	Joe Nicodemus
399	Les Hart
410/534	Rebecca Coleman
427	McCade Reese
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
459	Jethrow Kyles
480	Lori Kennedy
486	Leigh Anne Norris
530	Justin Landis
541	Nicole Hurt
557	Michelle Richter
576	Joseph Auing
605	Michael Lewark
638	Britney Stanczyk
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 31, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

3	Bruce Walls
49	Miranda Wendzel
57	Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 31, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

97	Blake King
126A	John Daniel
146A	David Pointer
170A	Mellisa Visel
284A	Bethany Snyder
133	Nick Loper
168	Jerol Williams Jr.
227	Jennifer Nichols
238/466	James Diss
250	Robert Clayton/Jessica Vissik
263	Tamara Holmes
292	The Woodshed Crafts
323	Dan Armel
325/336	Wiliam Cole Jr.
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
367	Jackie Libertowski
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
426	James Schilling Jr.
452	Aaron Smith

Niles Daily Star:
May 17 and 24, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RE: REBECCA J. McKEE, Deceased
DATE OF DEATH: April 12, 2025
DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 29, 1952

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: REBECCA J. McKEE, died April 12, 2025; she resided at 1185 W. Bertrand Rd., Niles, MI 49120 in Bertrand Township, Berrien County, Michigan. Creditors of REBECCA J. McKEE, Deceased are notified that all claims against REBECCA J. McKEE, individually and her estate will be forever barred unless presented to her daughter, Amanda M. McKee or to Attorney James J. Mollison, whose respective addresses are listed below, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. No probate estate is necessary nor anticipated.

Date: May 24,2025

Amanda M. McKee
1185 W. Bertrand Rd.
Niles, MI 49120
574-386-6193

James J. Mollison [P17884]
Attorney for Amanda M. McKee
4 South Lincoln Avenue
Niles, MI 49120
269-684-7600
C 269-930-4170

Niles Daily Star: May 24, 2025
EST/MCKEE, R.

Need to find the right employee?
WE CAN HELP.
Reach the county for less using Leader Publications classifieds. Need a quick quote? Submit your ad online at LeaderPub.com.
Call 269-591-6105.

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS $1600 OFF
SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
1-877-591-9950
With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445
EASE OF USE CERTIFIED
MADE IN TENNESSEE
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY
FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Finally! Satellite Internet With No Hard Data Limits!
And **FREE** Standard Installation![2]
Limited Time Offer. Restrictions may apply.

RANKED #1 BY THE FCC in Delivering Advertised Download Speeds FOUR YEARS IN A ROW[3]

"You can get High-Speed Internet wherever you live!"

Plans starting at $59.99 MO. for 24 Mos.

25 Mbps Download Speed
25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload[1]

No Hard Data Limits

Wi-Fi Built-In
Connect your wireless devices at home

CALL TODAY - LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

1-877-271-3236

HughesNet AUTHORIZED RETAILER

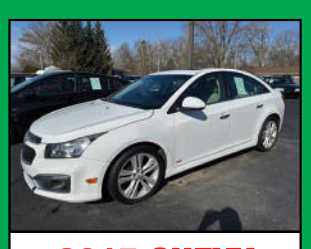
HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.
1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

DEALS ON WHEELS

0 DOWN DELIVERS!

ON THE SPOT FINANCING

Selling Fast!
Buy Now
Before Prices go Higher



2015 CHEVY CRUZ LTZ
Just in!!
Fully serviced with every option
Only $5,900

2014 CHEVY SONIC LT
Fully service and ready to go
Only $5,900

CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE
Extremely rare, low miles
Only $9,900

2019 NISSAN VERSA
Just in!!
35mpg, fully serviced and ready to go
Only $9,900

2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
Power moonroof, leather in mint condition
Only $9,900

2016 KIA SOUL
Only 62,000 miles, save thousands on this low miler
Only $11,900

2018 KIA RIO HATCHBACK
Just in!!
Only 53,000 miles
Only $12,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Get you mini-van for the mini-mum
Only $13,900

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
Only $15,900

2019 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
A bird flew over this one and we heard it say cheap cheap cheap!
Only $17,900

1999 FORD F-250 CLUB CAB XLT
This is a one owner in mint condition with low miles and very sought after 7.3 diesel
Only $19,900

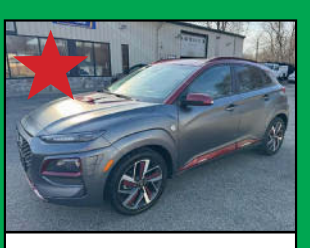
2022 CHRYSLER VOYAGER
Like new with full power options
Only $21,900

2018 CHEVY EQUINOX PREMIER AWD
Diesel. 35 miles per gallon
Only $21,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2018 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
Like new with low miles
Only $24,900

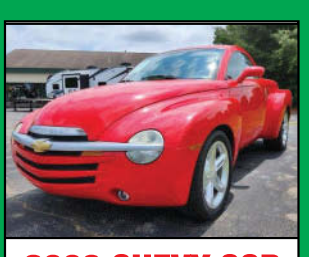
2023 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL
Like new with only 4,000 miles!
Only $24,900



2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item
Only $24,900

2019 DODGE DURANGO SXT 4 X 4
Only 31,000 miles and like new
Only $24,900

2022 CHEVY COLORADO EX CAB 4 X 4
Just in!! Off lease, one owner with super low miles
Only $26,900



2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 NISSAN ARMADA 4 X 4
Big ol rig!!
Only $29,900

2020 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR AWD
Every option, over $60k new. Half price!!
Only $29,900

2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS AWD
Just in!!
8,000 miles with every option!!
Only $33,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $34,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $39,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE, one owner with EVERY option
Only 13,000 miles
Only $43,900

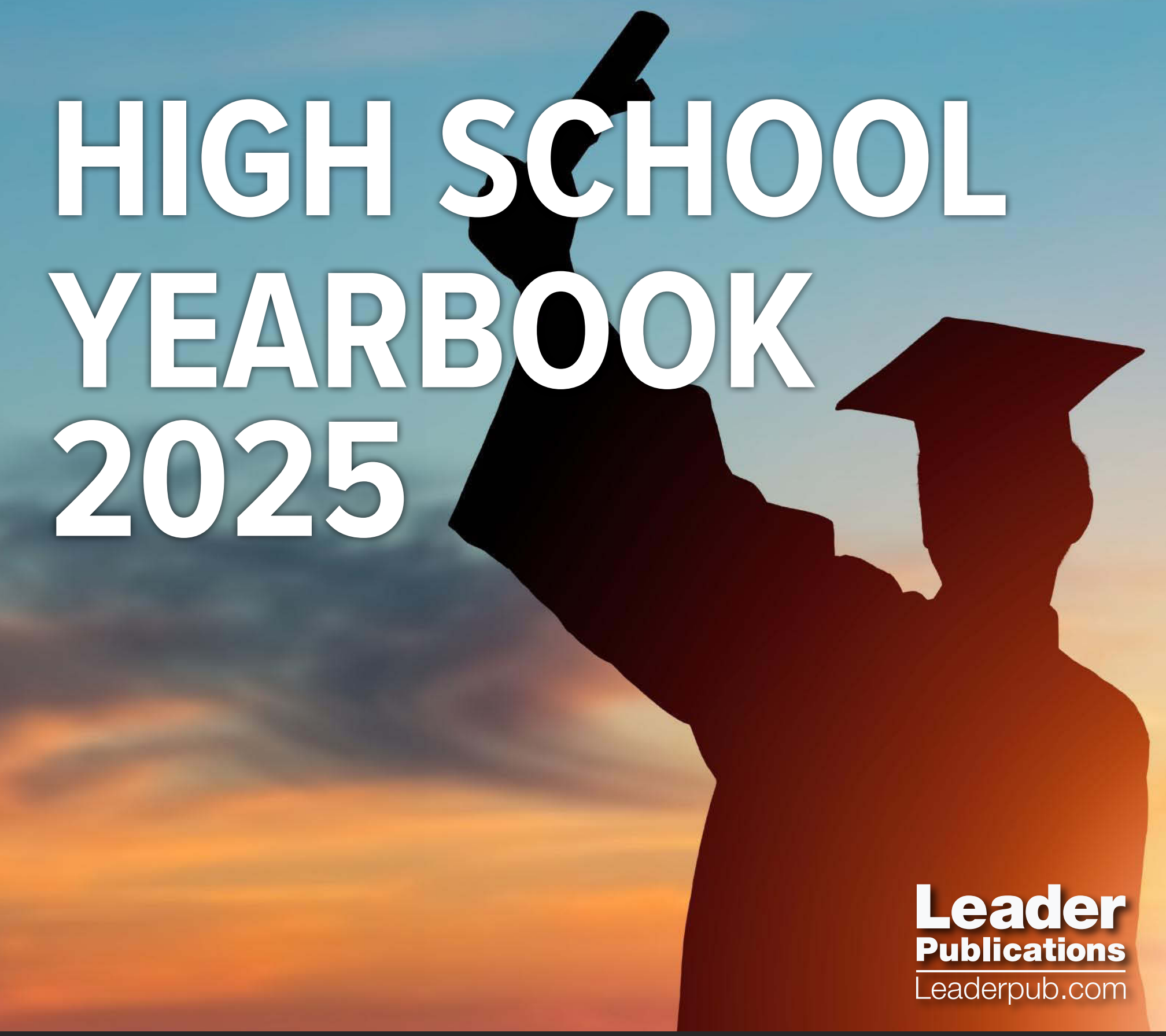
2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Just in!! Off lease with every option and only 38,000 miles
Only $49,900

2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal
Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC



BRANDYWINE • BUCHANAN • CASSOPOLIS • DOWAGIAC • EDWARDSBURG • NILES • CEDAR LANE

Scared of student debt?

Graduating Spring 2025?

Go to college tuition-free!

With the LMC Guarantee, your tuition could = $0

Here's how to launch your future:

- Apply to LMC — it's free and online.
- Submit your FAFSA — also free!
- Send your high school transcripts.
- Attend orientation & meet with an advisor.
- Start full-time this fall.

#1 COMMUNITY COLLEGE in Michigan*

*smartasset.com
2024 best community colleges in the United States.

LAKE MICHIGAN® COLLEGE

Visit **lakemichigancollege.edu/guarantee** to get started!

BENTON HARBOR CAMPUS
2755 E. Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-927-1000

SOUTH HAVEN CAMPUS
125 Veterans Boulevard
South Haven, MI 49090
269-637-7500

BERTRAND INNOVATION CENTER
1905 Foundation Drive
Niles, MI 49120
269-695-1391

ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA TECHNICAL & EDUCATION CENTER
2891 116th Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
269-512-7800

Lake Michigan College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

04/25 ©2025 Lake Michigan College

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Congratulations Class of 2025!

Call or visit your Edward Jones financial advisor to start your future with a solid strategy.

Jose Ontiveros
Financial Advisor
2726 S 11th Street
Suite 10 • Niles, MI
269-684-7398

Justin Nurenberg
Financial Advisor
209 E Front Street
Suite A • Buchanan, MI
269-695-9747

Kim MacGregor
Financial Advisor
148 S Front Street
Dowagiac, MI
269-782-3012

John S. Seculoff
Financial Advisor
901 Spruce Street
Suite 8 • Dowagiac, MI
269-782-1800

Greg A. Surber
Financial Advisor
2010 S 11th Street
Suite 140 • Niles, MI
269-684-6733

Jennifer Salmon
Financial Advisor
719 E Main Street
Niles, MI
269-684-8282

Shane R. Shidler
Financial Advisor
2726 S 11th Street
Suite 10 • Niles, MI
269-684-7398

Becky Brown
Financial Advisor
213 E Main Street
Niles, MI
269-684-6418

Darin Shrock
Financial Advisor
68925 M-62
Suite B • Edwardsburg, MI
269-663-3130

BRANDYWINE
BOBCATS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

CLASS OF 2025

It's a great day to be a Bobcat!

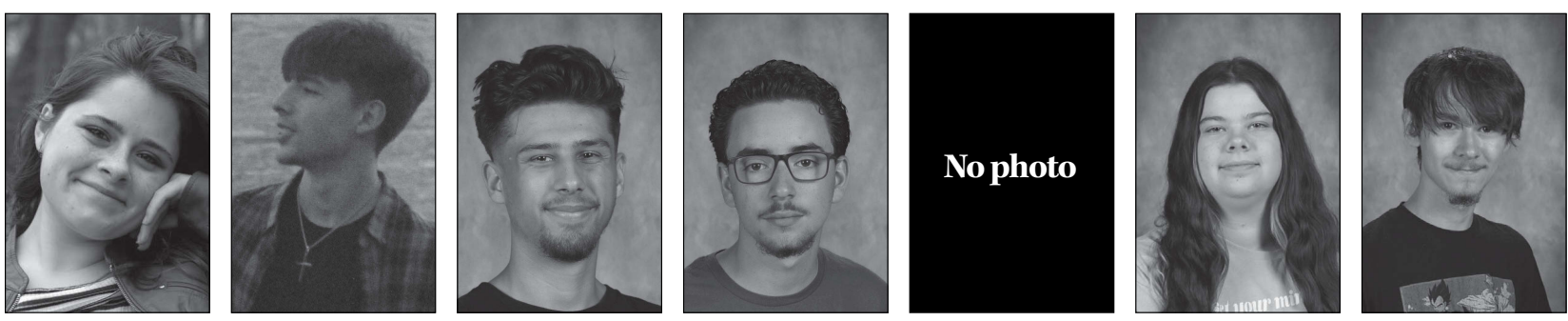
www.brandywinebobcats.org

ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.
BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

BRANDYWINE BOBCATS

Ava Adams
Hailey Albertson
Hailee Allen
Juaquin Alvarado
Monserrat Avina
Ebonee Babcock
Bailey Bauer

Libby Bauman
Payton Bortz
Zayne Bortz
Tristan Bower
Kendrick Brittin
Klowey Bronson
Benjimin Brown



Dannie Bunch
Laura Carew
Ryleigh Carpenter
Emma Comer
Taylor Craig
Steffany Cruz
Hailee Culberson
Alexandra Curtis-Lee

Samantha Daus
Selynda Davis
Elizabeth Deno
Autumn Dopkowski
Adelyn Drotoz
Alex Ellis
Steven Ferguson

Marleigh Freyer
Brandon Frye
Dylan Garris
Adeline Gill
Katelyn Godsey
Jerad Goodger
Gabriel Haraldson

BRANDYWINE BOBCATS

EmmaLeigh Hawley
Carter Hayes
Tiffany Hayslip
Preston Heed
JordanHester
Michael Hoffman
Logan Hood

Maurice Hoskin
Colton Hubbard
Mackenzie Huffman
Jalynn Huston
Isabel Kelems
Thomas Killelea
Zachary King

Mason Kinzie
Jayce Klapp
Ashlyn Kohler
Paige Krisher
Kamora Lane
Olivia Lauri
Kailen Lintz

Jayden Manigold
Eric Martinez
Niyah Mason
Simone McKay
Alexander Morris
Daniel Morrison
Aubree Murray
Alaina Needham

Logan Noack
Emma Paglierani
Miriam Peterson
Cheyenne Pierce
Destiny Posey
Ireland Prenkert
Jordan Reese

BRANDYWINE BOBCATS

Caitlin Robb
Bailey Roeder
Luke Roman
Trenton Runnels
Jesus Salgado-Martinez
Diego Sanchez
Pedro Segundo

Mason Simmons
Carter Sobecki
Eszter Spiesswinkel
Adam Starr
Michelle Stephens
Taylor Swank
Aaron Gilmour

Lexi Troup
Laila Vanderboegh
Delandah VanDyke
Huntter Vella
Courtney Watkins
Michael White
Mackenzie Witt

Shaylee Wixson
Miley Young

Chloe Addison Aalfs
Katelyn Elizabeth Ailes
Maxwell Arbanas
Sophia Joe Bachman
Tyler Dean Baker
Harrison Gunnar Mayse Bennett
Evan Cole Bennington

Connor Thomas Billington
Lillian Hannah Brackett
Sarah Ellen Brackett
Saleen Nicole Brennan
Karmine Lee Brown
Bodie King Bryans
Grace Madeline Calkins

Allie Marie Canfield
Cameron Elizabeth Carlson
Alyssa Jean Carson
Raymond Gerald Cleary
Teyla Marie Coquillard
Makaya Renee Cornwell
Logan James Cousineau

Richard Daniel DeSantis
Landon Jay Fankhauser
Christian James Patrick Fellows
Kaitlin Ann Ferrell
Dane Robert Figy
Jake Matthew Franklin
Jenna Leigh Franklin

Mason Robert Patrick Frontczak
Brett Elizabeth Gair
Alice Giulianini
Audrey Elizabeth Gnodtke-Tucek
Ava Elise Graham
Krista Lynn Gregory
Zoe Araea Griggs

Jacob Robert Hager
Jonathan Philip Hall
Drake Nathaniel Heimbuch-Williams
Alaina LeAnn Hickok
Caitlyn Rose Horvath
Cameron Irene Horvath
Hayden Steven Howard

Gibson Marie Johnson
David Brian Iler Jr.
Christopher Lee Livesay Jr.
Jackie Allen Morley Jr.
Kaiden Leroy Karn
Ethan Andrew Kuntz
Morgan Celeste Kuntz

Olivia Rae Kutemeier
Walter Evan Lary
Trinity Mae Liebetrau
Audrey Jean Lietz
Kaleb Michael Lingle
William Harley Carson lll
Airyana Diane Lott

Aaliyah Elaine Marks
Dakota Lynlee Marsh
Saul Martinez-Juarez
Kylee Brooke McDonald
Gavin Metcalf
Emma Kathryn Miller
Hayden Elizabeth Miller

Nathanael Anthony Wayne Morin
Gaia Natale
Tristan Donald Nesbitt
Nina Noakowski
Isabella Overmyer
Alec Bruce Pastryk
Leland Jeffrey Payne

Tyler Owen Pelletier
Elliott Conrad Pettke
Sutherland Michelle Philip
Thomas Matthew Pleasant
Julia Jasmine Prenkert
Evyn Jane Pruett
Laney Loucille Reep

Akirrah Jalisa Robinson
Jaden Lamar Robinson
Gabriel Kondwani Schmeling
Carson Allen Shelton
Sidney Elle Smith
Emma Marie Snodgrass
Jacob Roger Stines-Vancourt

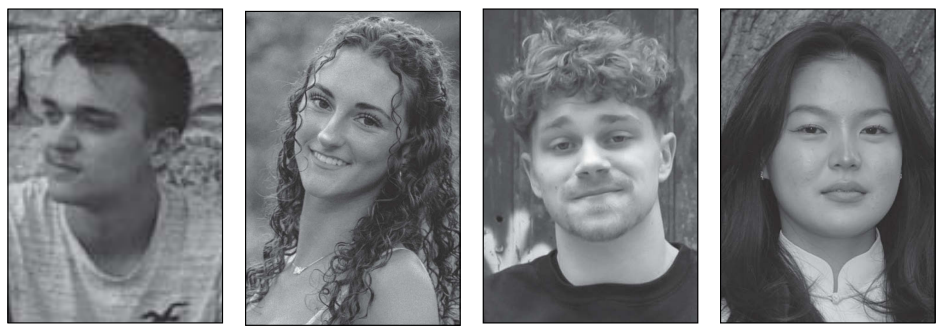
Jonathan Stough
Brooke Louise Strefling
Laura Katherine Elizabeth Sweeney
Kristen Sue Tavernier
Isabella Rose Tibbles
Tyler Lynn Tomes
Colin David Tompkins

Gabryael Walter Tompkins
Avery Trigg
Aurelia Sage Trowbridge
Ava June Trowbridge
Chance Patrick Tucker
Payton Riley Tucker
Grantland James Waggoner

Lary Walter
Addison Lynd Warmbein
Coy Reese Weinberg
Dustyn William Wesolowski
Logan Timothy Wiggins
Darius Williams
Karley Drew Williams

Kyler Andrew Withers
Madeline Abigail Young
Noah Matthew Zielke
Goomaral Zorigtbayar

Not pictured:
Kadence Nicole Dorton
Olivia Doughty
Aunjunae Jordan
Haley Larsh
Kahyly Mattimore
Alan Reybuck
Hailey Robbins
Stacee Ungerecht
Michael Williams



Gavin Anderson
Jennifer Blair
Mackenzie Boyer
Adrianna Broussard
Reese Butler
Travis Butler Jr.
Tyson Carter

Brenna Chaffee
Breann Clark
Braydin Collins
Madison Conner
Breece Cooper
Josephine Coyle
Matthew Diehl

Owen Eaton
Tracy Eldridge
Laycee Ericson
Andrew Ernst-Kucsera
Luke Findlay
Maliyah Flowers
Janayla Franklin

Devyn Garcia
Bradyn Gould
Alaina Grissom
Kayla Grover
Jermario Hart
Nola Hawkins
Danica Heath

Brandon Hemminger Jr.
Travis Heroy
Anthony Higgins
Hunsberger Ryleigh
Emma Husted
Caitlin Jones
Gavin Keister

Kiley Kistler
Brody Knepple
Traylor Lacklan
Teyana Lee
Matthew McGrew
Jacen Newsome
Dylan Ottman

Hunter Ottman
Charles Pasillas
Kale Perry
Sophia Pompey
Quig Quigley
Jayleen Reyes
Brayden Rice

Andrew Shaw
Sarah Sibley
Abbigail Smead
Annabelle Smead
Carleigh Stull
Olga Suarez
Jered Wellman

Aslynn West
Lily Westrate
Dominic White
Le'Aijshanea Willis
Laeshawn Wilson
Niyana Woods
Justin Zeleznikar

DOWAGIAC CHIEFTAINS

Merrill Adams
Avery Amundsen
Amelia Bakeman
Jacoby Baker
Elizabeth Bale
Lauren Balsbaugh
Makayla Best

Dylan Birdsay
Aaron Bonczynski
Emma Bontrager
Loren Bowen
Mason Bressler
Guadalupe Brito
Payton Brown

Javier Carillo
Masael Carillo
Cal Chapman
Meg Charles
Julianna Chavez
Deonna Cross
Marissa Cross

Jonathan Dash
Calvin Diamond
Araina Dudley
Elaine Emerson
Chloe Eubank
Austin Farley
Neveah Ferrier

Isaiah Fitchett
Chase Frazier
Jaden Gant
Amari Gaston
Braeden Gillesby
Makiah Gonzalez
Cassidy Green

Markus Ottinger - Dowagiac

Elaine Emerson - Dowagiac

Danika Lovell - Dowagiac

Carson Shugars - Decatur

Cass Family Clinic 2025 Graduates

Brody Ross - Decatur

Congratulations Graduates!

MAKE CASS FAMILY CLINIC YOUR HEALTHCARE HOME

CASS FAMILY CLINIC

Our Family, Caring For Yours.

(269) 445-3874 Cassopolis | (269) 262-4749 Niles

www.cassfamilyclinic.org

Congratulations Class of 2025!

We are proud of how you have fulfilled our vision:

Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve.

We know, where you go and whatever you do,

Chieftains will Lead & Succeed.

Albion College - Andrews University - Bethel College - Central Michigan University
Ferris State University - Grand Valley State University - Greenmark Equipment Institute - Hope College - Huntington College
Indiana University - Indiana University South Bend - Kalamazoo College - Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Lake Michigan Community College - Michigan State University - Michigan Career & Technical Institute
Northern Lineman College - Northern Michigan University - University of Notre Dame
Sororan Desert Institute - Southwestern Michigan College - Southwest Technical Institute - St. Mary's College
Twin Cities Beauty College - United States Marine Corps - United States Navy - University of Illinois Chicago
University of Michigan - University of Northern Ohio - Western Michigan University

Dowagiac Union Schools **Phone: (269) 782-4400 ~ Website: dowagiacschools.org**

Edwardsburg Public Schools

Tomorrow's Leaders

Pride • Passion • Purpose

Congratulations Class of 2025

Our graduates are going places...

University of Michigan • Michigan State University
Purdue University • University of Tampa
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Texas A&M
University of Arizona • University of Kentucky
Indiana University • University of Minnesota
Grand Valley State University • Bethel University
Olivet Nazarene University • Middle Tennessee State University
Saint Mary's College • Western Michigan University
Central Michigan University • Ferris State University
Hope College • Taylor University

269-663-3055

www.edwardsburgpublicschools.org

EDWARDSBURG EDDIES

Jayden Albright
Matthew Anders
Calvin Andrews
Ella Armock
Gabriel Bailey
Mason Baldwin
Briana Bartak-Fernandez

Bree Bartak-Medlin
Leah Bennett
Skylar Benson
Cooper Bessinger
Abbigail Bienz
Ayden Billingsley
Emma Billington

Nadia Black
Noah Brigham
Ysolde Brubaker
Dakota Bryant
Drew Burgess
Jaycob Burgess-Stambaugh
Jewel Burgess-Stambaugh

Dylan Butrick
Daniel Carfi
Mia Castelucci
Carsen Cebra
Alainy Christiansen
Jocelyn Christner
Jacob Ciszczon

Cole Claire
Olivia Closson
Victoria Cole
Noah Coleman
Megan Cook
Emerson Crist
Charlotte Cultice

Kavien Danzy
Ethan Davies
Audrey Delp
Titus Devlin
Bruce DeWulf III
Evelyn Dougan
MMcKayla Dressler

Ossian Duckworth
Richard Duis
Casey Dyczko
Carson Eaton
Nicholas Edgerton
Vaughan Ernsberger
Nicklus Fedder

Alexandria Ferguson
Kellee Firestine
Benjamin Fish
Camden Foreman
Brailey Fowler
Julianna Fox
Morgan Funderburk

Taylor Gableman
Isabella Gaipa
Caylen Gary
Braylon Gearhart
Grace Gessinger
Mia Graziani
Grant Griffin

Jazmyn Gulley
Brady Halfman
Jillian Hall
Kaitlyn Hamilton
Lani Hardin
Brayden Hardy
Abigail Hartley

EDWARDSBURG EDDIES

Gabriel Hein
Molly Herbert
Hunter Holmes
Hailey Horton
Brayden Horvath
Carter Houseworth
Keagan Hoven

Lana Hueni
Mia Hurd
Zoe Ianello
Isabella Jaronik
Laila Johnson
Maguire Johnson
Morgan Kaminskas

Walker Karafa
Jackson Karkiewicz
Alivia Kuntz
Kaitlynn LaLime
Jacob LaPorte
Jacob Lawson
Allison Lee (?)

Brady Leep
Jon Leith
Erin Letter
Julia Lewis
Stephen Linton
Joseph Lundgren
Arianna Machado

Julia Matthews
Lola McDaniel
Catarina McGuire
Elizabeth McKay
Ryne McKay
Skyler McKesson
Maya McLaughlin

DOWAGIAC CHIEFTAINS

Cassidy Green
Hayden Groth
Rebecca Guernsey
Maryam Haddad
Hayden Hagemann
Tyler Hannapel
Neveah Hemminger

Andres Hernandez
Angel Hernandez
Jasmine Honn
Kamarion Huddleston
Sophie Kirtdoll
Malayna Klug
Zachary Kroepel

Emerson Kruger
Anneliese Lee
Alexis Lewis
Danika Lovell
Greysen Lozadaa
Savannah Mabus
Johnathan Malin

Karen Mandujano
Laura Manriquez Padilla
Raymond Maynard
LaMone Moore Jr.
Efrain Moreno
Aldan Morford
Brenna Mott

Samantha Mottweiler
Issac Neal
Keana Nelson
Ethan Orrick
Markus Ottinger
Colin Parker
Ella Parker

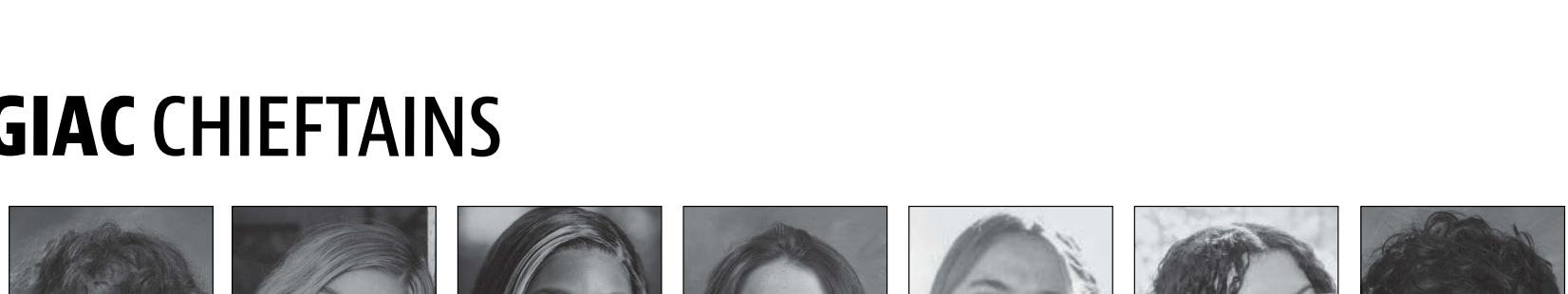
DOWAGIAC CHIEFTAINS

Ayden Pond
Alainna Preston
Zariah Pulliam
Tanner Roberts
Myrissa Rowe
Aleera Ruiz
Isaiah Saavedra

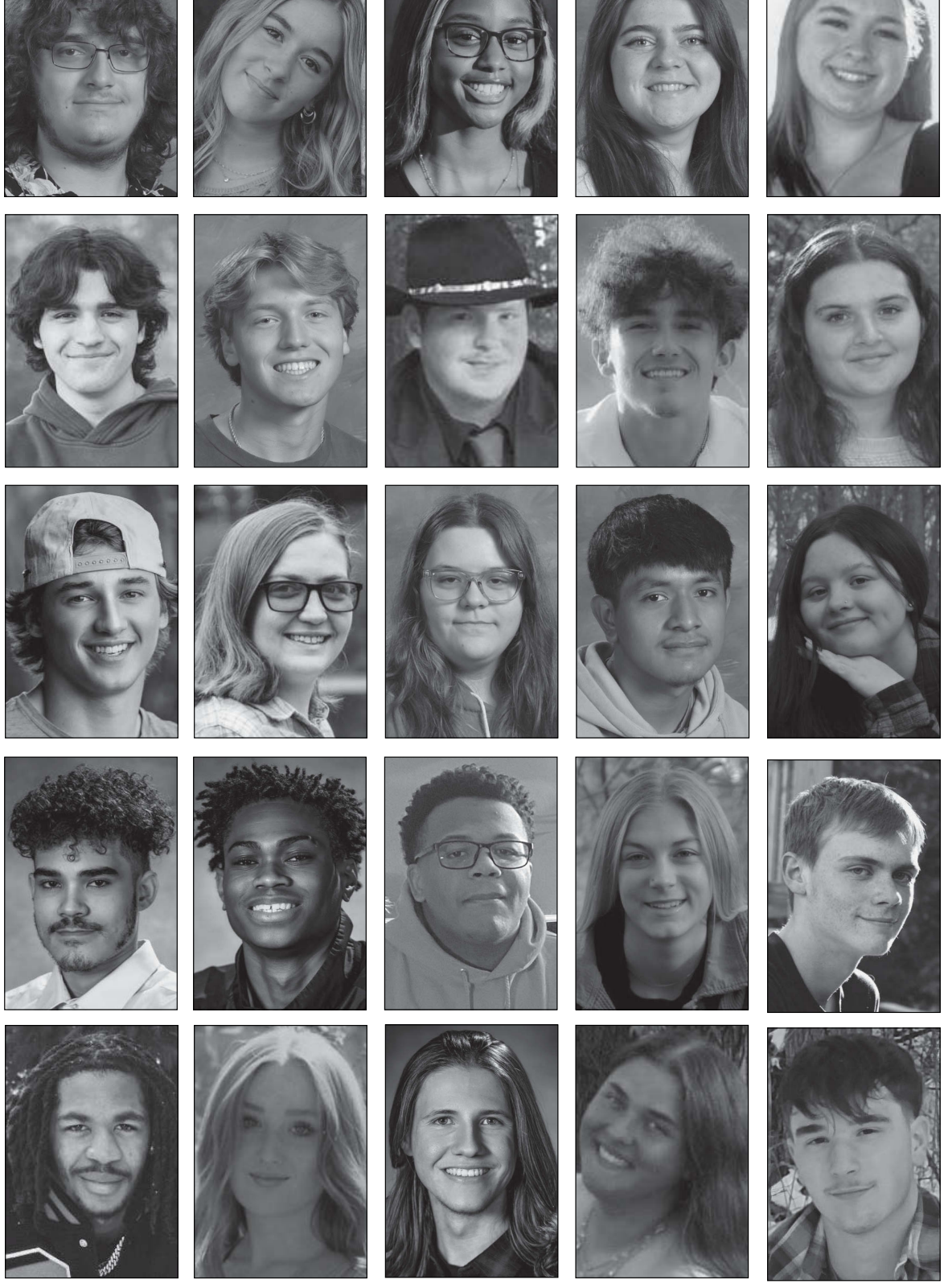
Samuel Sardeneta
Owen Saylor
Brian Seals
Kaleb Smith
Carlee Spagnoli
Wawaasmok Sprague
Emma Stanger

Elijah Stout
Trinity Swisher
Skyla Tackitt
Junior Tecuapan
Rylei Thielmann
Tayah Thomas
Jillian Torbet

Justin Treadwell
Braylon Wade
Xazirion Wares
Olivia Weber
Austin West
Jaden West
Devean Whitaker



Jamal Williams
Reagan Williamson
Connor Wilson
Madison Winchester
Ben Wurz



Congratulations
TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

"We Service GM, Chryslers, Ford & Most Foreign Cars"

DAVE'S GARAGE
713 N. 13th St. • Niles, MI 49120
269-683-7220

TANS DOWN UNDER

Congratulations to our Brandywine Senior, Bailey Bauer

Check out our recent additions, a Hybrid UV/Redlight Bed and a High Pressure Bed

12 tanning beds/booths.
Family Owned for over 31 years.
With the best prices in tanning and lotion around.

(269) 683-8185
1700 Oak St., Niles, MI 49120

MYSTIC TAN
UV Free Tanning

Buchanan Community Schools
CLASS OF 2025
YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT & LIMITLESS!

Congratulations Graduates!

Balanced Accounting & Tax Services
2325 S 11th St., Niles, MI • 269-683-6944
2024 READER'S CHOICE CONTEST BEST of the BEST Leader PUBLICATIONS MICHIANA'S FAVORITE BUSINESSES

J&H OIL CO.

Choose The Leader In:
- Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
- Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
- Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
- Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
- Fuel Locations In Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso

Contract/Fixed Price Options
- Volume Discounts
- Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
- Premium Diesel Fuel
- Hoses & Filters in stock

QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS

J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes

PACIFIC PRIDE · Blue Leaf · 66 Lubricants · Mobil · CITGO

J&H OIL CO.
Quality Petroleum Distributors
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

Congratulations
SENIOR
CLASS OF 2025
From Lyons
The finishing touch.

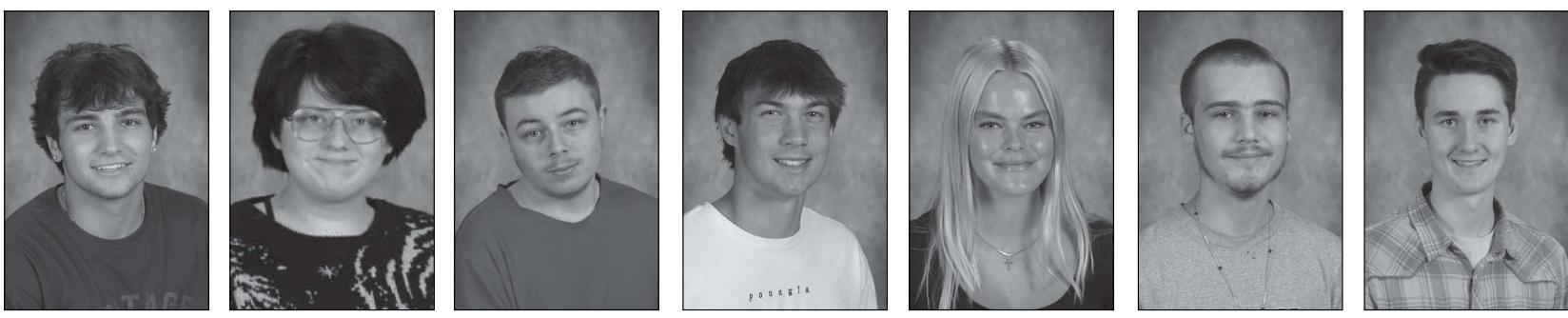
Congratulations!
CLASS OF 2025
Cassopolis Public Schools
Expanding Minds. Changing Lives.

EDWARDSBURG EDDIES

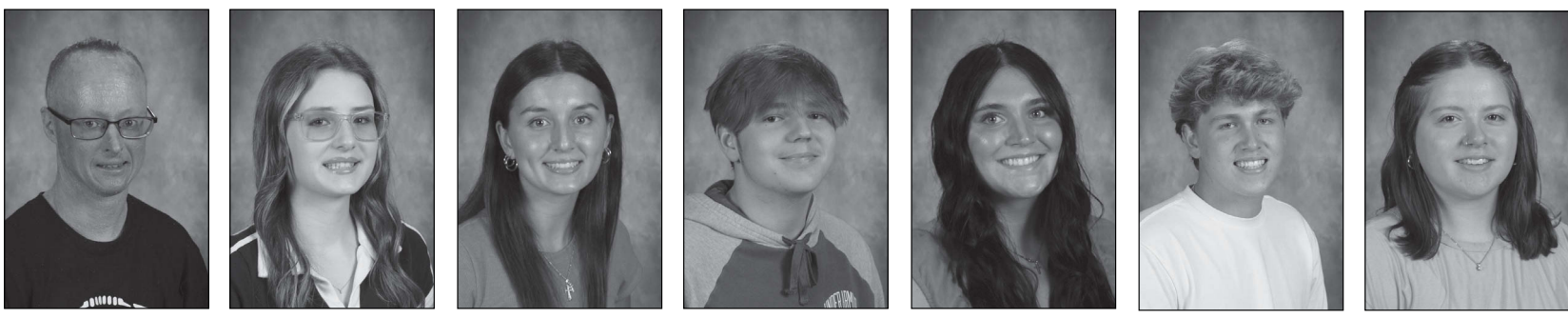
Billy McMillen
Emily Melton
Jordan Mitchell
Marco Montanari
Verona Moody
Oscar Morris
Calli Moseley

Lenoxx Myers
Ashton Nash
Gavin O'Day
Gabriella Ojeda
Gracie Oleson
Grady Ostrander
Gabriel Ottinger

Christian Peacock
Bailey Pearson
Matthew Pease
Ezekiel Pegura
Lauren Penteris
Charles Perrin
Jacob Perrin



Kayden Peters
Lexiea Pethick
Madelyn Pobuda
Chaes Pointer
Abigail Pryor
Caden Purdon
Jenna Reese



Andrew Richardson
Aiden Roupe
Jade Samuels
Cody Schaap
Wyatt Schantz
Austin Schimings
Brody Schimpa

EDWARDSBURG EDDIES

Jillian Scupham
Kaylee Seabolt
Julia Seifer
Addison Sharp
Zachary Shears
Aiden Sherk
Lilane Sherwood

Lorraine Slocum
James Solarek IV
Katelynn Solarek
Mauro Soto-Soto
Logan Swearinger
Emily Swihart
Amalia Szalai

Shelby Thiel
Levi Town
Mason Trammell
Abigail Ummel
Payton Van Vooren
Mara VanBuren
Lillian Waggoner

Jace Walker
Nicholas Walker
Mikylah Wallace
Elek Widman
Evan Wilson
Landyn Xayachack
Tyris Yoder

Kadence Yowell
Kourtney Zarycki
Taurin Zimpleman
Trystan Ziska

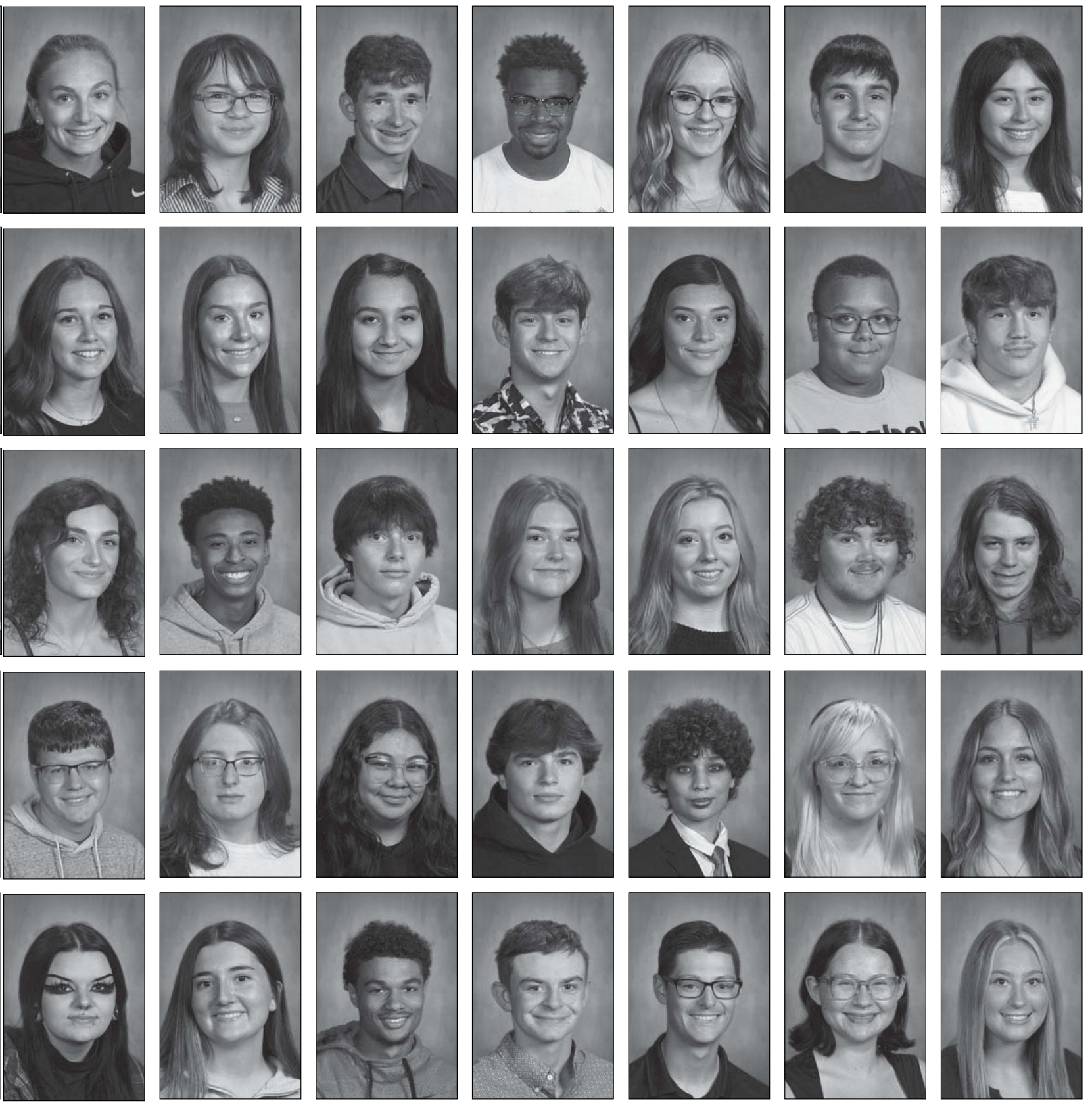
Aaliyah Adams
Dane Asmus
Lily Asmus
Elias Babler
Meline Baird
Sophia Baker
Elayna Balderas

Onesimo Barranco Rivera
Celeste Basore
Talen Bennett
Zane Bolyard
Alaina Bowman
Gesela Bravo-Tafoya
Jay'Vonte Bryant

John Bullard
Peyton Burger
Juan Campos Aguilar
Zoee Candler
Yareli Capula
TayShawn Carmicheal
Malcolm Chapla

Kylie Clanton
Elizabeth Coffee
Skyla Cole
Kylie Conn
Riley Cowan
Collin Cronin
Alexis Culp

Jordan Cunningham
Paxton Daniel
Payton DeMeyer
Irie Dempsey
David Dennis
Victoria Densborn
Tucker Dierlam



Anidale Doyle
Charlie Drew
Lisa Falco
Aiden Fawcett
Kaleb Ferguson
Cloey Foust
Aiden Garcia

Alexa Garcia
Alexis Garlanger
Kendall Gerdes
Aiden Gesellschap
Alandra Gonzales
Troy Goodlow
Peyton Gordon

Addison Gowen
Gary Grady
Adam Gray
Alyssa Hamrick
Kayla Hansen
Wyatt Harrell
Taven Harris

Braydon Hartzke
Gavin Henderson
Deasire Hernandez
Paul Hess
Angelina Hill
Megan Hojara
Izabel Hoskin

Ava Hoskins
Brooklyn Hoskins
Jaden Ivery
Rowan Iwaniuk
Adam Jackson
Aubrey Jackson
Kaydence Jacobs

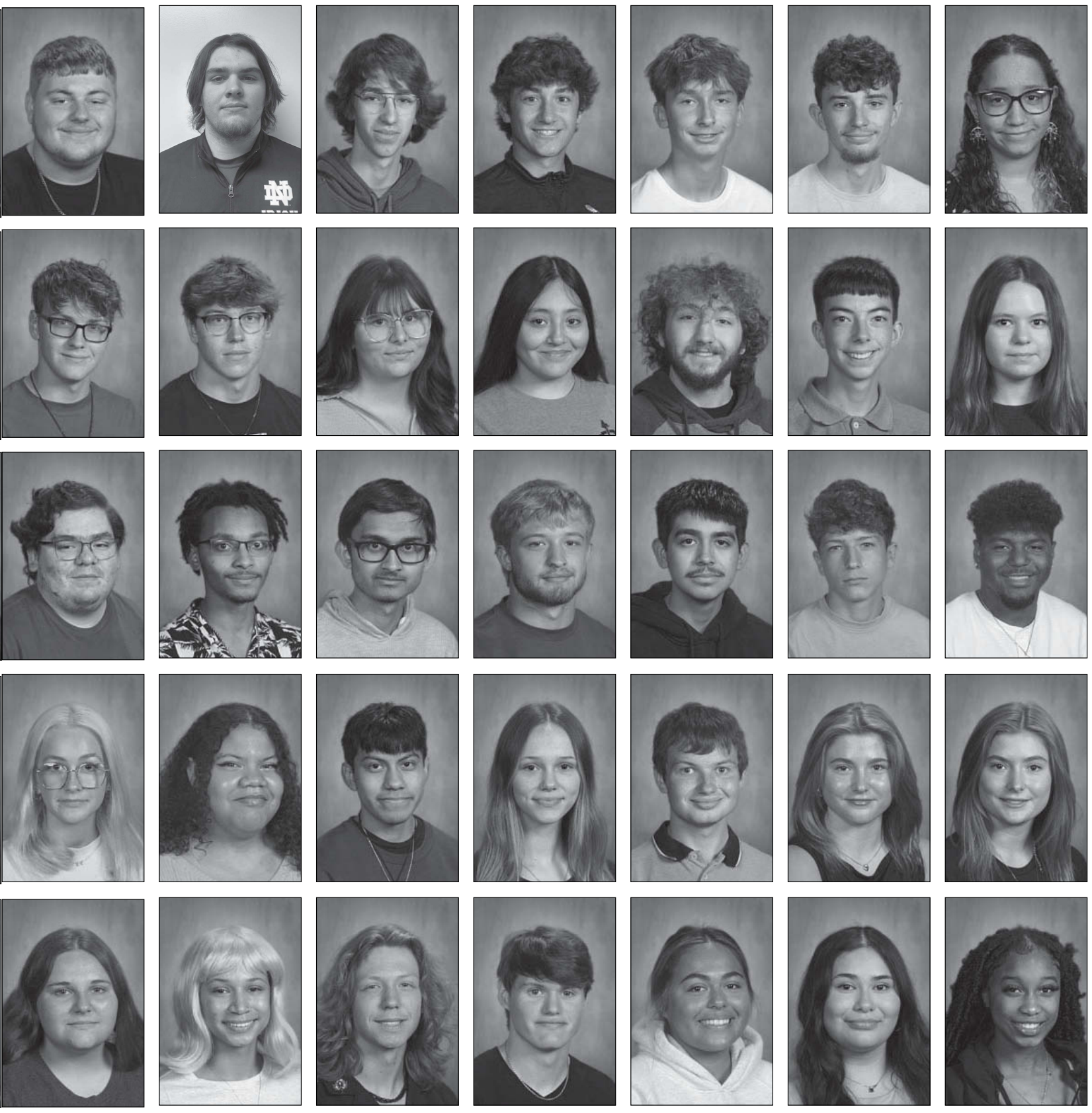
Myles Jones
Jessica Jose
Anna Kalling
Hunter Kater
Emma Kater-Elrod
Ethan Keck
Anna Kier

Kayla Kiggins
Kloe Kiggins
Quinton King
Ethan Knoll
Martin Kutka
Bree Lake
Lillian Landon

Brock Leblang
Jamison Liebetrau
Bradyn Maples
Josslyn Maples
Macy Marciniak
Aniyah Martin
Leah Martin

Andrew Mata
Gabriella Matlock
Angelica Mazumder
Aydan McCarey
Meadow McFadden
Noria Mchopa
Aubrey McIntosh

Joshua McIntyre
Kyle McKay
Joy Moyer
Robert Myers
Landon Nelson
Sara Pawlak
Terrance Peace



Andrew Pease
Jaymes Phillips
Caiden Pockrandt
Owen Podlin
Ethan Poirier
Logan Pulling
Zoe Quintana

Jordan Quist
Kason Quist
Morgan Racht
Emily Rios
Logan Ritchie
Nathan Ritter
Michaela Rivera

Raphael Rivera
Jetson Rodgers
Marvyn Roy
Samuel Rucker
Giovanni Sanchez-Ibanez
Jaime Santandreu de la Fuente
Braylon Schultz

Siana Schumacher
Jezzilynne Scott
Jesus Silvestre
Shelby Skalla
Tyler Skopec
Kaiya Slater
Kelsea Slater

Bralen Smith
Hannah Smith
Jazmin Smith
Seth Smith
Jazmin Sosa
Elizabeth Soto
Naomi Stephens

Congratulations to the class of 2025!

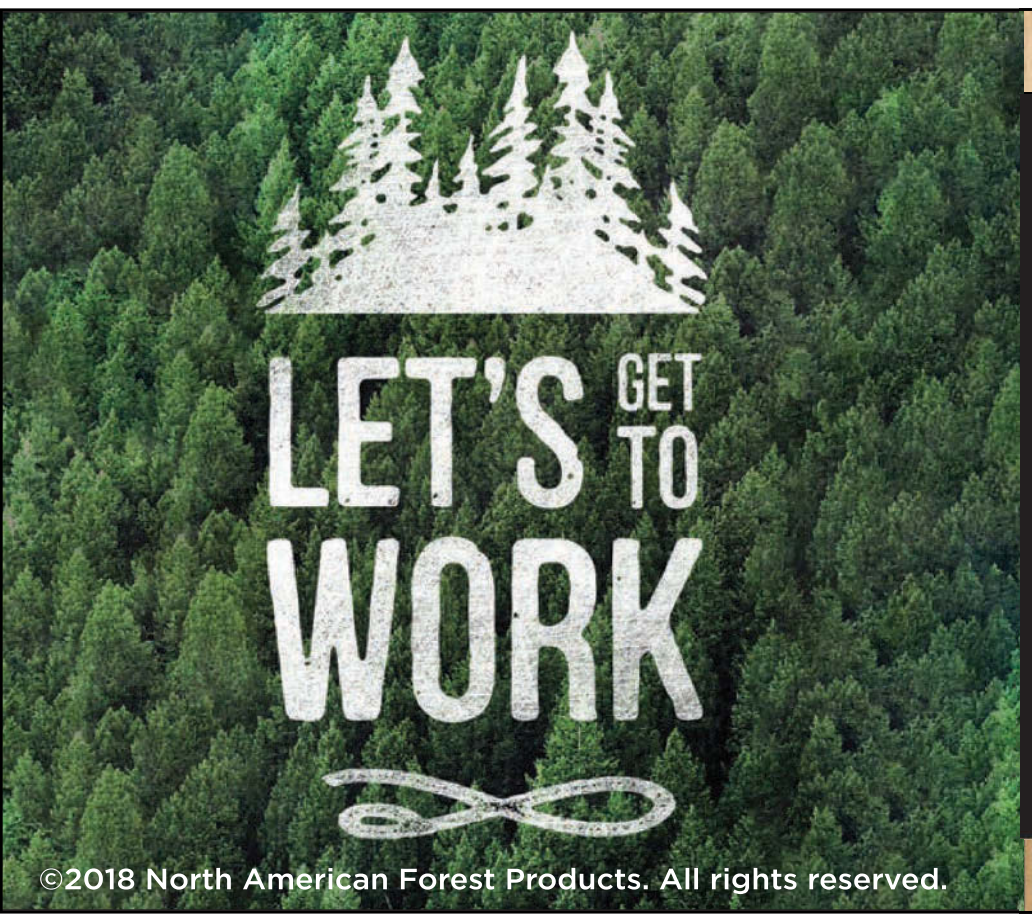
IMS
INSURANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

214 N 4th St., Niles, MI 49120
www.imsinsuranceagency.com
269-683-4900

As this chapter of your life closes, dream new dreams and reach for the stars.
The future is yours to embrace.
Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

NILES MICHIGAN
CITY OF FOUR FLAGS

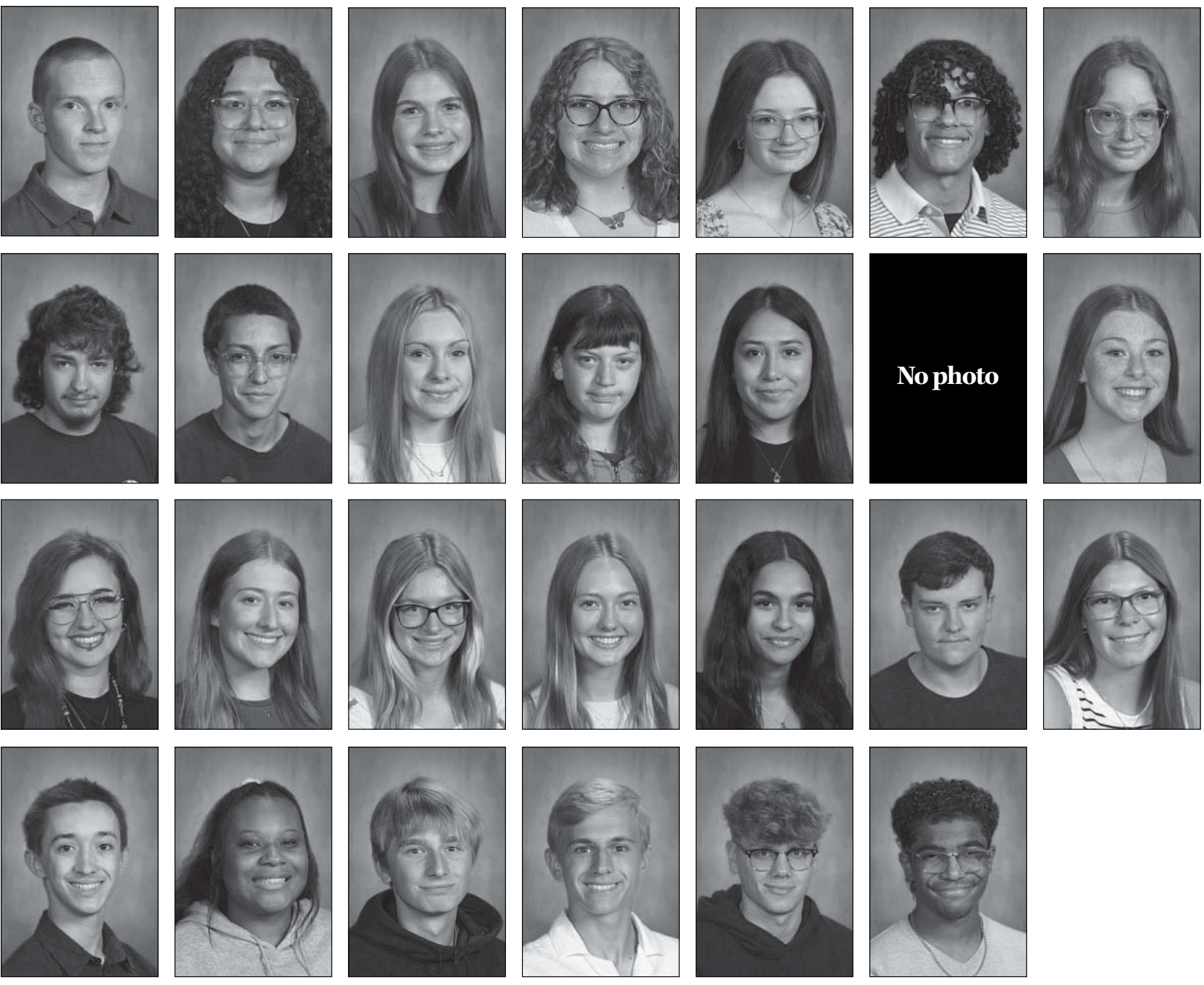


PART OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1989

NORTH AMERICAN FOREST PRODUCTS
North American MOULDING

We have more than 500 dedicated employees that support our customers with a "we can do that" attitude and we are always eager to add to our line of in-house services from sales reps, engineers, production, to drivers for our own fleet of trucks.

APPLY TODAY
NAFPINC.COM/EMPLOYMENT
QUALITY PRODUCTS | UNEQUALED SERVICE



Erixson Stump
Jatzity Suasto
Olivia Taberski
Anja Tabor
Abigail Talley
Jordyn Thompson
Adrianna Trindade

Thaddius TRUE
Keegan Urbina
Ayrial Vail
Jazzmine Vail
Itzayana Vargas
Maddison Ward
Mattalyn Weinberg

Sedona White
Natalie Wilds
Haylea Wilken
Emma Williams
Mariah Williams
Seth Winningham
Ilyee Wirick

Cameron Woodbury
China Woods
Carson Wright
Brian Young
Toby Young
Adriel Younger

GO VIKINGS!

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Dynamic Learners • Diverse Opportunities • Driven To Succeed

FROM YOUR NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FETCH THE NEWS
ONLINE & IN PRINT

Visit leaderpub.com/subscribe

Southwest Michigan's source for local news and sports

Leader Publications

CEDAR LANE & WAY PROGRAM VIKINGS

Cedar Lane
Alexandria Ash
Alyssa Benjamin
Linkin Born
Kaylei Colls
Dijuan Fowler
Asialakay Haas
Samuel Herbster

Adairis Hernandez
Sarah Hunt
Hope Leahy
Brooke Loftus
Martin Moreno
Joel Ramirez
Faith Simmons

Koryn Urbina
Desiree VanArman-Snyder
Carrera Warehime
Clover Watson
Maya West
Tyler Wirick
Honestee' Wright

WAY Program
Trinity Cady
Heaven Carroll
Montana Crabtree
Kayanna Lange
Shayla Peppers
Avery Tackett
Payton White

Congratulations, graduates!

From t-ball games to spelling bees, football championships to scholarship assemblies, it has been a joy to tell your story and watch you all grow. Best of luck in your next endeavors!

Leader Publications
Leaderpub.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025 SERVING DOWAGIAC, SISTER LAKES AND CASSOPOLIS

Dowagiac Daily News

Established 1897

leaderpub.com • $1.00

DUS board discusses possible welding cla

BY MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The potential fu
ture home of Dowagiac Union High
School's welding class was a topic of
discussion during Monday's Board
of Education meeting at Dowagiac
Middle School.

Superintendent Greg Blomgren
shared that he has been in com
munication with Igniter Design, an
engineering and architectural firm
based out of Grand Rapids, to talk
about the coding and the architec
tural plans in the event the district
is able to reach an agreement with
the Dowagiac Armory, 700 W. Pi
rie Ronde St., to move its weldi
class into the building.

"They have a design that th
put into place for us. It's exciti
to look at and to see," Blomgr
said. "We're going to move forwa
with having a construction com
ny come in that Igniter has recu
mended to look at that facility a
give us a cost estimate or project
on what that might be just to cov
a space over there that would all
our welding class to be there at t
point."

While no agreement has be
reached at this time, Blomgr

Superintendent Greg Blomgren speaks to the board during Monday's meeting.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Stay Safe

Install locks on doors and windows, ensuring they're locked while you're away. Consider investing in a home security system with car
Well-lit exterior
enhancing visib

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

SMC hosts band clinic with U-M Director

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — South
western Michigan College's
fifth annual Bands Clinic
Sat Feb. 14 featured six area
school bands and almost
150 musicians collegiate
ly University of Michigan
Director of Bands Jason
. Fettig to polish March
Southwestern Michigan
band and Orchestra Asso

and performed in Dowagi
ac.

Fettig led the musical
program for the inaugura
tions of President Donald
J. Trump and President Jo
seph R. Biden and the State
Funeral of George H.W.
Bush.

Like Sousa, Fettig served
as music director of Wash
ington, D.C.'s, Gridiron Club.

Performances under his

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 SERVING DOWAGIAC, SISTER LAKES AND CASSOPOLIS

Dowagiac Daily News

Established 1897

leaderpub.com • $1.00

Luna Marine & Storage celebrates expansion with ribbon-tying ceremony

BY MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — A Dowagiac busi
ness that provides boat and lake ex
thusiasts with a variety of services
recently celebrated its expansion
with the community.

Chamber of Commerce repre
sentatives and business owners re
cently gathered at Luna Marine &
Storage, 56625 Woodhouse Dr, in
the Dowagiac Industrial Park, cele
brating the occasion with a ribbon
tying ceremony.

A SouthBay boat dealer, the busi
ness offers certified Mercury and
Suzuki Marine sales and service
and marine dock, lifts and storage
solutions in Southwest Michigan,
including boats, PWCs, RV's and
more.

"We've been in business for a cou
ple years here in this location, do
ing a lot with boats for the past few
years, and expanded it into a larger
scale," said Mike Luna, who co-owns
Luna with his mother Mary Beth.
"We service all makes and models,
any type of watercraft. We're ex
panding into the powersports a
mosphere as well."

He added that Luna Marine &
Storage is expanding into a sepa
rate building next door that will
be renovated into a showroom. For
Mike and Mary Beth, bringing jobs
to Dowagiac is one of their biggest
goals.

"I used to hear stories about Dow
agiac in the past and I love it," Mike
said. "We're such a great community
and the people here have been over
whelmingly supportive. We can't
thank everybody enough for that.
Our goal is to be here for a long
time, do a lot of different sales and
all different things."

Mayor Don Lyons was on hand to
welcome Luna Marine & Storage to
the community.

"What (this) represents to me, is

See CELEBRATES, Page A8

From left: Don Lyons, Kris Soehen, Mike Luna, Mary Beth Luna, Dorothy Mottl.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Stay Safe

Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts – if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
215 Fort Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7140 Ext. 7331
www.berriencso.com

Sheriff, Chuck Hall

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE • CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

Harwood Lake Celebrates Major Milestone in Removal of Eurasian Watermilfoil

COMMUNITY REPORT

JONES — Surveys of
Harwood Lake found no
Eurasian watermilfoil fol
lowing two years of hand
pulling.

Eurasian watermilfoil
(Myriophyllum spicatum)
was first detected in Har
wood Lake in August 2021
by SWSW Corner CISMA
Coordinator Alex Florian

igan State University Ex
tension found no Eurasian
watermilfoil near the boar
launch. However, a small
patch was found on the op
posite side of the lake. This
is a promising result show
ing the lake is on the path
to being free of Eurasian
watermilfoil.

"Eurasian watermilfoil
is so common in Michigan
that we rarely find lakes